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## Mossad's Yatoom credited for revealing Gil

**By JAY BUSHINSKY**  
Mossad head Danny Yatoom was responsible for revealing that it was Yehuda Gil himself, and not Gil's Syrian contact, who was responsible for the false information being reported about Syria, several sources concurred yesterday.

A security source was quoted by Gil affair playing well in Damascus, Page 2

The Itim news agency is saying: "Whoever contends that the former Mossad director, Shabtai Shavit, as early as 1991 dealt with the false information said to have been provided by Gil and that he sought his replacement, is deceiving the public."

According to Itim, it was when Yatoom, Shavit's successor, took office that Gil's reliability was first investigated. It was then that the emphasis shifted from doubt about Gil's source to suspicion of Gil himself. He was called by Mossad personnel as a suspicious man, as the clandestine meetings he claimed to be having, never took place at all.

MK Ori Orr (Labor), a former deputy defense minister, was quoted as saying the suspicion of Gil's activity began during Shavit's term, but that the actions undertaken at that time did not lead to his exposure. Orr also credited Yatoom with having succeeded in trapping Gil.

## Gil went bad upon retirement - lawyer

**By BATSEVA TSUR**

Yehuda Gil started going astray three or four years ago, after he retired from the Mossad and started working for them as a volunteer, his lawyer, Yigal Shapira, told *The Jerusalem Post* yesterday.

The arrested Mossad agent has been accused of filing false reports for two decades.

Gil was detained on November 3 and formally charged on November 7, said Shapira, who was employed by the Mossad before going into private practice. He said he had agreed to represent Gil because he was "a personal friend who had slipped up."

According to Shapira, Gil had chalked up an excellent record over the 20 years or so he worked for the service and felt sure the court would take this into account when sentencing him.

Shapira maintained that his client had broken under the pressure to constantly provide new information from a source that was drying up.

He indicated that this was the point when Gil began to fabricate information.

"Gil is a perfectionist and this was his tragic flaw," Shapira said. "He was too rigid and could not accept there was something he could not do [get new information from his source]. He was always the cool, strong type who knew how to get out of difficulties in the field and to come out a winner."

## Neeman, Peretz reach pension deal

**By MICHAEL YUDELMAN and DAVID HARRIS**

A general strike that paralyzed the country for five days ended last night with a clear victory for the Histadrut labor federation, which achieved almost everything it set out to do.

Strike damage estimate up to NIS 300m., Page 3

Hundreds of thousands of striking workers began returning to work at 10 last night, after Histadrut Chairman Amir Peretz and Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman came to an agreement.

The Histadrut's most significant achievement was in forcing the government to consult with it on economic policy.

The way to the agreement was paved when National Labor Court President Steve Adler postponed hearing contempt of court suits and called both sides into his chambers to hammer out a compromise.

The Treasury agreed to rescind plans to tax study funds, and promised not to violate pension agreements. The agreement also calls for immediately opening negotiations over wage agreements.

Two issues left for later talks were the transition from budgetary pensions to accumulated pensions, via the pension funds and deciding whether income eligible for pension deductions would be the average wage or twice this sum.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said last night he was glad that the strike was over. At a reception at the Tel Aviv Museum celebrating the transfer of Bank Hapoalim shares to Tel Aviv's group, Netanyahu said he hoped the agreements reached would spare the country unneeded expense, while permitting changes to be made in the pensions system.

Peretz said that "the battle was about whether the workers have a right to be partners, to lift up their heads, to insist on their rights and make demands, or are mere pawns in the game."

"I told Neeman we will not have a state of masters and slaves here. If we've achieved that, if we've won, then it's worth any price we've paid," Peretz said.

Peretz said he hoped the Histadrut would be recognized as a full partner on issues such as the state budget, health insurance, child allowances, privatization and structural changes.

"I hope he [Neeman] now realizes that his bullying, brutal tactics, which left an entire public feeling humiliated, ignored and despised, were wrong," Peretz said.



It's not a Histadrut activist but a tourist from Scotland who flashes a V-for victory sign yesterday at Ben-Gurion Airport after learning that the general strike was over and he could fly home. Story, Page 3

## Pact sets framework for pension changes

**By DAVID HARRIS**

The agreement lays down the framework for transferring new state employees' pensions from the state budget to provident funds.

The government actuarial deficit under the current system is estimated by the Treasury at NIS 163 billion for government workers and some NIS 300b. for the whole public sector.

If the status quo were allowed to continue, there would be no money for education, defense, and other key services, claimed Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman. "The burden is larger than the entire [gross domestic] product of Israel."

The understanding between the two sides also contains a compromise over the agreement signed between then-finance minister Avraham Shohat and Histadrut Chairman Amir Peretz in May 1996, during the last days of the Labor government.

The Shohat-Peretz agreement made an adjustment for those workers whose pensions are computed on the basis of their average salary over their entire working career, as opposed to those whose pensions are computed under the "new system" - on the basis of their last three years of work. A pension calculated the second way is almost always higher, since one's earnings in one's last years of work tend to be higher.

The Shohat-Peretz document stated that those who retired during the five years subsequent to October 1996 would be entitled to an addition to their pension equal to 60% of the difference (if there is a difference) between that pension and a pension that would have been calculated under the new system.

Under the original agreement, that payment could amount to up to NIS 2,500 a month for five years. The new arrangement allows for NIS 650 per month, but for an unrestricted period.

## Turkey defends pact with Israel

**By AREKH O'SULLIVAN and news agencies**

Turkey has rebuffed growing pressure from Arab states to cancel its military pact with Israel, and will be rolling out the red carpet for Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai, who arrives in Ankara today.

But in Teheran, representatives gathering for the Organization of the Islamic Conference, led by Syria, are seeking a strong condemnation of Turkey for the military alliance.

Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Shara said yesterday that the head of the Turkish delegation had promised, after Moslem foreign ministers had discussed the issue, that the accord with Israel would be allowed to lapse.

But Turkey's Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Ahat Andican later denied that he had made such a promise.

"What I said is that there is an agreement between Turkey and Israel and it's a training agreement and it's not against any other Islamic country or third country," Andican told Reuters.

"It's a training agreement. It works now and it will stay," he said, adding that Shara must have misunderstood his remarks, at a recent Islamic conference in Teheran.

"There was a mistake in translation I think," Andican said. "I did not say we were canceling [the agreement] or anything like this."

The resolution being drafted in Teheran was toned down by other

## Hamas leader Rantisi tells 'Post': Intifada can restart any time

**By MARGOT DUDKEWITZ and MOHAMMED NAJIB**

On the eve of the tenth anniversary of the intifada, the Hamas leader in Gaza, Dr. Abdul Aziz Rantisi, said that the flame of confrontation still burns within the Palestinian people, and that it could explode at a suitable moment.

In an interview with *The Jerusalem Post*, Rantisi maintained that it was Hamas which encouraged the uprising in December 1987, by calling out from the mosques for people to protest in response to an accident involving an Israeli semi-trailer, which collided with a Palestinian vehicle, killing four passengers and injuring 10.

Pent-up feelings of injustice led to the explosion of protests, he said.

"The intifada forced the Palestinian people to face a reality and the continual injustice wrought upon them by Israel. Their inner fears and frustration were translated externally in the shape of stones, declarations, rallies and protest marches and then the people regrouped and headed into direct confrontation."

Most mainstream Palestinian groups consider the intifada as having ended in 1993, with the signing of the Oslo Accords.

But Rantisi, whose organization opposes the peace agreements, charged that "today the Israeli government continues to treat the Palestinians in a similar fashion, kindling the intifada flame felt by the people. It is only a matter of time before it explodes again."

Rantisi vowed that his group's struggle against Israel would continue for as long as Israel occupies Palestinian land.

"The intifada goals are numerous, Palestinians will continue to defend

## Not a job for a 'nice Jewish girl'

**By MARILYN HENRY**

NEW YORK - It's not true that Jewish girls "don't do that." The third thing was, "We must never, never tell Grandma, and we didn't. She thought Jane was a lawyer," she recalled for *The New York Times*.

Perlov starts her new job today, supervising 514 officers. Her style, she told the *New York Post*, is "Rather than say, 'Charge!' I say, 'Follow me!'"

Perlov, who was raised in an Upper West Side apartment filled

with paintings, books, and Oriental rugs, began her police career patrolling the streets of Harlem. One night, a raid on a drug den found Perlov, who is 1.58 meters tall, and her fellow officers up against a locked metal door.

"They all looked at me and said, 'Jane, why don't you kick it in?'" Perlov told the *Times*.

"So I closed my eyes and thought of every John Wayne movie I'd ever seen, and I kicked it and it opened."

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First Served  
Judaica  
Biographies  
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## NEWS

in brief

### Soldier wounded in Lebanon

A soldier was lightly wounded by mortar fire in south Lebanon last night. The incident happened while troops were on patrol in the eastern sector of the security zone. The soldier was given first aid in the field and did not require further treatment. Meanwhile, reports from Lebanon said two Hizbullah activists were killed by IDF troops in the past few days, without giving details of where or when. The reports gave rise to speculation that they were among the three people who were killed in explosions near Majdal Salim village, north of the security zone, on Friday. *David Rudge*

### US officials to discuss Swiss bank issue

Some 200 American public finance officials will meet in New York today to review Switzerland's handling of war-era assets and the question of sanctions against its banks. The conference is being convened by New York City Controller Alan Hevesi, one of a handful of finance officers who this fall imposed sanctions on Swiss banks. *Marilyn Henry*

### Peace Now: Construction up in settlements

There was a 23 percent rise in construction in the settlements in the second quarter of the year, Peace Now charged yesterday. Publishing findings for the second quarter, the movement said 320 homes are currently under construction, compared to 260 in the first three months of the year. The construction of public housing rose 62.5%, 130 homes compared to 80 in the first quarter. Private construction rose 5%, 190 compared to 180. The movement said that according to a survey published by the Central Bureau of Statistics, a total of 2,920 units are currently being constructed, compared to 2,870 in the first quarter. *Margot Dudkevitch*

### B'tselem: 1,346 killed by IDF in intifada

To mark the 10th anniversary of the outbreak of the intifada, B'tselem published a list of Israeli human rights infringements against the Palestinians. The organization claims that 1,346 Palestinians were killed by soldiers and security forces since December 9, 1987, 276 of whom were children. Undercover units killed 162 Palestinians and 133 Palestinians were killed by Israeli civilians. The reports state that 256 Israeli civilians were killed by Palestinians, 18 of whom number were children. Palestinians killed 127 Israel security men and soldiers. *Margot Dudkevitch*

### No-confidence debate today

The Knesset is scheduled to debate three no-confidence motions, filed by Labor, Meretz with Hadash and the Democratic Arab Party, this afternoon. The motions deal with both political-diplomatic issues, including redeployment, and the economy. *Liat Collins*

### Discussion on Eva Braun exhibit

The Israel Museum is to hold a discussion of its controversial installation "Live and Die as Eva Braun," at 11 a.m. today at its Springer Auditorium. Participating are the exhibition's creator, Roee Rosen; and Roger Rothman, a doctoral candidate at New York's Columbia University, who wrote the supplementary text for the Artist's Book published in connection with the exhibition. *Meir Ronnen*

With deep sorrow we announce the passing of our dear

## BERNARD (BOOBY) SMALLER

who has been released from his suffering.

The funeral will take place today, Monday, December 8, 1997, 9 Kislev, at 1 p.m. at the Herzliya Cemetery (Rehov Pinsker). We shall meet at the gates.

Mourning by:

His wife, Bashe  
His children, Miriam Smaller Baumgarten,  
Shoshana Battat, Adi, Shulamit Bash  
and their families

## TEL AVIV UNIVERSITY

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## FRANK DAVIS

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The University extends its condolences to the family

Benno Gitter  
Chairman of the  
Board of Governors

Professor Yoram Dinstein  
President

## Desirée and Yossi Carmel

mourn the loss of a devoted friend

## FRANK DAVIS

and send condolences to

## Reneé and the family

# Final map won't be ready for Albright

By JAY BUSHINSKY

The final map being drawn up by the four-man cabinet committee on the next redeployment in the West Bank may not be ready when Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu meets US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright again on December 17, but its general outline and the concepts behind it are almost certain to be in hand.

This assessment by informed quarters was based on the committee's latest session which was held yesterday shortly after Netanyahu's return from Paris, where he conferred twice with Albright on the redeployment issue. Netanyahu briefed the committee on the talks.

Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai and National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon met privately prior to the four-sided deliberations with Netanyahu and Foreign Minister David Levy.

During the one-on-one, the two saw eye to eye on their respective maps.

This enabled the plenum to appoint two subcommittees of topographical and security experts drawn from Mordechai's and Sharon's staffs to "crystallize" a map which, according to political sources, will be a "map of national interests and security."

Although its lines of demarcation of territory to be ceded to the Palestinian Authority and that to

be retained eventually will be unfurled before Albright, the sources doubted that it would be complete in time for Netanyahu's next meeting with her.

In discussing the cartographical concepts, however, Netanyahu evidently will be able to specify the sectors Israel intends to keep when the permanent arrangement with the PA is formalized.

The sources credited Netanyahu with having succeeded in convincing Albright and her aides of

Israel's need for security zones. They said he elaborated on this at his meeting with her in Paris on Friday and predicted that he will be able to present a coherent territorial plan (though not an actual map) to her at their forthcoming talks.

Because of Mordechai's departure for an official visit to Turkey, the four-member cabinet committee will not reconvene until after his scheduled return on Wednesday, it is reported.

## France: Next move in peace process up to Israel

PARIS (Reuters) - The next move in reviving the Middle East peace process is up to Israel, French Foreign Minister Hubert Vedrine said yesterday.

Vedrine, who discussed the Middle East situation with US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright yesterday after meeting Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Friday, said France feels that Israel's plans for a promised West Bank troop pull-back are "insufficient."

Vedrine made the remarks during an interview on Luxembourg television RTL.

President Jacques Chirac made similar comments after meeting Netanyahu on Saturday, according to his spokeswoman, telling the Israeli leader he is pessimistic about the prospects for peace and that long delays in the peace process are a threat to Israel's security.

During the RTL interview, Vedrine repeatedly ducked reporters' questions on whether he still considers Netanyahu's policies to be "catastrophic," as he had said in September.

That remark had triggered strong criticism of France from

Israeli officials.

Vedrine also repeatedly refused to say whether he believes Israel truly wanted peace.

Netanyahu had travelled to Bonn and Paris in recent days to brief French and German leaders on the redeployment plan.

Leaders in both countries said after hearing the plans that more is needed on Israel's part.

Albright was staying overnight in Paris again and is scheduled to meet French Prime Minister Lionel Jospin early today before setting off on a seven-nation African tour.



Visiting chop-shop

Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani yesterday visits a chop-shop that was discovered last week in Tel Aviv.

(Tom O'Sullivan/Israel Sun)

## STRIKE

Continued from Page 1

"This time, since the agreement was sponsored by the court, I hope it would not occur to Neeman to violate it," Peretz added.

He apologized for the hardships the strike caused the public, but said that "a society which wants a recognized and protected workers' class, must accept the temporary suffering."

Peretz said that the Treasury had agreed several months ago to accept the pension agreement

signed by former finance minister Avraham Shohat just before the last elections.

Neeman had argued that the agreement was illegal.

The end of the crisis followed a stormy day of protests in which thousands of angry workers took to the streets, blocking thoroughfares and intersections around the country. Many were angered by reports that Neeman was backing down on agreements reached on Saturday night.

All-night talks between the Treasury and the Histadrut broke down at dawn yesterday just as an

agreement seemed imminent, after Histadrut officials learned that Netanyahu had signed emergency back-to-work orders before he went abroad last Wednesday.

At 5 a.m., the sides had reached agreement, according to Peretz, but by 5.45 a.m. Neeman had changed his mind once again.

"The time has come for the citizens of Israel to realize that they're doing business with a man [Neeman], with who it is impossible to finalize agreements," Peretz accused, as he entered Labor Court yesterday morning.

Thousands of workers burned tires and blocked the Jerusalem road leading to the courthouse in a demonstration of solidarity for Peretz, who was hoisted on supporters' shoulders when he arrived to answer the state's contempt of court suits.

Posters were also draped on the side of the court building saying, "Neeman is unreliable" and "Neeman the usurper."

Neeman, who arrived tightly surrounded by dozens of security guards, was jeered, booed and splashed with water hoses as the workers yelled "Neeman, resign!" and "Neeman, go home."

Agreement was reached only in the evening, with an exchange of faxes between Peretz and Neeman.

Neeman said the agreements could have been reached without a strike, which he said did damage to the tourist industry and the name of the State of Israel.

Neeman also criticized strike leaders, and alleged that they did not represent the nation's poor.

"It must be clear, Treasury policy is to defend those whose wages are low," he said.

Neeman denied allegations that he had sought to break the back-bone of the Histadrut.

"The workers need a strong Histadrut, but it must be responsible," he said.

## Gil affair playing well in Damascus

The "Case of the Spy Who Lied to His Headquarters" is undoubtedly generating as much interest among the Damascus elite as it is in Jerusalem.

"This was not the first time the Mossad fed disinformation to the Israeli government, and it was not the first time also that the Israeli government built its policies on such fabricated reports," wrote

the English-language *Syria Times* yesterday, in its first review of the Yehuda Gil affair.

The paper then

went on to ask, "The question now is whether the Israeli government will continue its intransigent policies or will reassess its wrongly based position on peace-making?"

The Gil affair will initially lead to verbal Syrian attacks on Israel for fanning the flames of war, said Gabriel Ben-Dor, a Haifa University political science professor who specializes in Syria. But at a later stage, he said, the incident may actually serve to "clear the air" between the two countries.

The two comments in the *Syria Times* dovetail well with that analysis.

"Initially, the episode will reinforce the perception in Syria that Israel does not want peace, and that it is looking for another round of fighting, and is preparing all kinds of excuses for this," Ben-Dor said.

He said there have already been reports in the Syrian press that the affair proves Israeli intransigence, and how there are elements in the Israeli security community who are not interested in peace with Syria, and are trying to misrepresent Syria's real intentions to the Israeli public and the whole world.

This initial, knee-jerk reaction could be heard in a Radio Damascus commentary over the weekend.

"The information published in Israel about the Mossad's mistakes shows that that organization is a nest of fabrications and lies, to say nothing of its role in employing terror against others."

But on second blush, Ben-Dor

said, the whole episode could, paradoxically, help create a better atmosphere between the two countries.

"When they analyze this in greater depth," Ben-Dor said, "they will realize that as long as the tense relationship continues, such misunderstandings can always arise, so there will be an interest in clearing the air. What

Gil sent seemed like credible information; there was no other way to get reliable information. It might

take some time, but the Syrians will realize there are those at the lower level in Israel who are interested in keeping up the tension, and misleading the government."

Ben-Dor said that in the past, prior to Camp David, confidence-building measures took place between Egypt and Israel when their respective leaders concluded that they might not be getting objective information on the other side through their various intelligence channels.

Rafi Eitan, for years one of the Mossad's central pillars, told Israel Radio that Syria will obviously clamp down hard on its governing circle in an effort to plug any remaining security leaks.

He said that the episode "undoubtedly" compromised some of the Mossad's methods of operation.

But the Syrians, said Ben-Dor, were clearly not surprised by the affair. "They will now clamp down on everything, and will do everything to ensure that this doesn't happen again."

He said, however, that the Syrians realize that their upper echelon is "full of corruption," and are not surprised "that people can be bought off with money. Things like this happen all the time [to the Syrians] in Lebanon."

Ben-Dor said that in the "near future" the Syrians will be alert to this type of thing, but then it will blow over, and one of the country's many other scandals will take precedence.

That, at least, is one thing both Damascus and Jerusalem have in common.

## Politicians comment on Gil affair

By LIAT COLLINS

Gideon Ezra (Likud), a member of the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee and a former deputy head of the General Security Service, said yesterday that censorship on the Gil affair should have remained tighter, because details of the Mossad's work methods were revealed and could enable the Syrians to find Gil's source in Damascus.

Ezra also called on the Prime Minister's Office to publish an official statement on the affair.

"We are giving the enemy too clear a picture of what is going on with us," said Ezra. He added, however, that most of the news being published is partially incorrect.

He stressed that more than one source of information is used to prepare assessments.

Ezra called the affair "unusual" and said that integrity is one of top requirements of those recruited to intelligence services.

Ezra said that Gil had been suspected of providing unreliable information for a long time. He rejected the possibility that the public exposure of Gil was timed deliberately to moot the criticism of Mossad head Danny Yatom over the Mashaal Affair.

"When you have a bad agent, it's better to get rid of him than continue with him," he said. "It's similar to a certain extent to the problem in the Avishai Raviv affair."

The false information on Syria

Drive  
Slower!  
Drive with  
Care!

LIAR

مخبران الاحوال



# Albright

Israel's need for security... Albright... the whole episode... Albright... the whole episode...

# Affair playing in Damascus

and the whole episode... Albright... the whole episode... Albright... the whole episode...

# IN CONTEXT

By HERB KEIMON

take some time, but the... Albright... the whole episode... Albright... the whole episode...

# ians commen Gil affair

provided by Mossad... Albright... the whole episode... Albright... the whole episode...

## Outside court, a protest turns picnic-like

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

Burning tires and bullhorns gave way to shoozooing and take-out food yesterday as representatives of various unions gathered outside the National Labor Court in Jerusalem yesterday to await its decision.



Strikers demonstrate outside the National Labor Court in Jerusalem yesterday.

(Shimmi Handler)

phone, "I'll tell you exactly when he shows up."

Warning the crowd not to get violent, strike coordinator Shlomo Shani said he was "proud" of them, but "let's show them we can keep things under control here."

When the "devil" himself finally appeared, several of the demonstrators tried shpritzing him with

water from water bottles, as if they believed it would somehow melt him like the Wicked Witch of the West.

## Strike damage estimate: From NIS 195 million to NIS 300m.

By DAVID HARRIS and DAVID RUDGE

Estimates of how much the Histadrut strike cost the economy ran from NIS 195 million to NIS 300 million yesterday.

He expected that the damage would be felt in lost wages, loss of customers, and in some cases question marks over the futures of companies. In addition, industrialists have already started complaining of a lack of raw materials as a result of the strike.

Some 2,000 homes in Jerusalem... The Israel Lands Administration said yesterday it had postponed deadlines for tender applications because of the strike.

government workers yesterday. The lowest forecasts were in the Customs and VAT Authority, Construction and Housing Ministry, Labor and Social Affairs Ministry and the Ministry of Education.

## PALESTINIAN PRESS REVIEW

By MICHAEL SELA

The Palestinian Press devoted most of its attention in the past week to the proposed redeployment in the West Bank.

Officials in the Palestinian Authority as well as journalists and commentators were all united in describing the idea as "another trick to avoid any action required by the Oslo peace accords, signed by the previous Labor government," as an *al-Quds* editorial put it.

According to *al-Quds*, despite the ambiguity of the government decision, it is clear that the redeployment will be very limited. But it said that what was more dangerous was an Israeli decision to invest more money in the settlements in the West Bank.

Matar wrote in *al-Hayat al-Jadida* that "Netanyahu is good for us," because he succeeded in splitting the Likud and stabbing his allies in the back. He is good, because he dries up the pretense of democracy in Israel, and because as long as he is prime minister, there are no chances for a unity government.

Netanyahu at the head of a government which is exposed to pressures and attacks from all sides is much better than a strong government," Matar wrote.

Noting some historical moments in Palestinian history, from the beginning of Fatah attacks in 1965 to the Iraqi missiles which struck Israel during the Gulf War, Matar concluded: "The future is not theirs, they are an incidental case in time and history. We are the ones who do create time, facts and civilization, even if it takes a while."

In contrast to this anti-Israeli article, Iyyad Odah supported, on the same page in *al-Hayat al-Jadida*, mutual understanding between Palestinians and Israelis. Odah called for direct contacts between both peoples, and for everyone to embrace the idea that there is no such thing as an absolute truth, and that despite our controversies, there are many areas of cooperation.

The 50th anniversary of the UN partition resolution was discussed by Palestinians in the context of the current debate over a new partition of Palestine-Israel.

*Al-Quds* published an Arabic translation of A.B. Yehoshua's article in the Hebrew press, entitled, "The Partition of the Country into Two States is the Only Solution to the Palestinian Struggle."

The paper has also been publishing a series of articles by historian Walid al-Khalidi on the history of the partition idea during the British Mandate era.

## Expert: Histadrut comes out ahead

By BATCHEVA TSUR

is to strike - at great cost to the economy. The Finance Ministry also lost "total autonomy to fix economic policy," she added, while "the Histadrut has won the stature of an organization that has to be recognized as a partner in taking measures which affect the workers."

She said that the union federation has also "established the principle that agreements made with the Histadrut cannot be broken with impunity."

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**Monday Dec. 15 "IN DEPTH" IN HAIFA**  
Israel's power-house city is more than that as we'll show you. We'll visit the Persian Gardens at the Bahai Temple, the loveliest in the country, then the Temples area on the Carmel, settled in 1887, Beit Hagafen, the Jewish-Arab cultural center and the Technion, founded in 1924. We'll visit M.I.M., Israel's largest industrial park, home to over 30 hi-tech companies. We'll see Haifa port and harbor and sail in Haifa Bay, visit Stella Maris, the cave of Eljah, the Carmelite Monastery and much more. NIS 250 including lunch. Your guide: Lior Shorer

**Sunday Dec. 21 DISCOVER THE GREEN LINE**  
For many it's just a line on the map, but in the not too distant future it will be the main cause of confrontation. Come and speak to "green line residents" in Hashmonaim, Kfar Sefar, Lapid, Maccabim, Modi'in, and Nave Shalom. If you are interested in Israel's future then don't miss this tour. NIS 210 including lunch. Your guide: Historian Avi Ben-Hur

**Sunday Jan. 11 RETURN TO BEIT SHEAN**  
Thousands of years of history - Greek, Roman, pagan, Jewish - now revealed for all to see. Theaters, temples, bath-houses, markets, frescoes, houses of ill-repute. All the beauty and cruelty that paganism offered. Even if you've been before, come again, because so much more has now been revealed, including the "Mona Lisa," in one of the world's most successful digs. NIS 200 including lunch. Tour guide: Gabi Mazor Head of Archaeological Authority, Beit Shean.

The tour price includes transportation from Jerusalem or Tel Aviv and return, entrance to all sites, background lectures and on-the-spot explanations. Lunch as indicated. 10% discount when you book all three tours. Pick-up and drop-off along the route when possible and arranged beforehand. Reservations and further information: SHORASHIM, POB 7588, 14 Rehov Abarbanel, Rehavia, Jerusalem 91074. Tel. 02-566-6231 (9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.) Ask for Michal, Vered or Varda.

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**ISLAM AND POLITICS:  
LESSONS FROM THE PAST**  
19:00 - Greetings: Dr. Shimshon Zelniker  
Executive Director, VLI  
Mr. Ivar Samrén  
Chairman, Board of Trustees, VLI  
19:15 - Lecture by: Professor Nehemia Levtzion  
Chairman, Planning and Budgeting Committee of the Council for Higher Education  
20:00 - A selection of songs by the Almaya Choir,  
The Association for the Advancement of the  
Ethiopian Family and Child in Israel,  
directed by Ms. Luba Epstein  
Wednesday, 10 December 1997  
at the Van Leer Jerusalem Institute, 43 Jabotinsky Street  
R.S.V.P. Tel. 02-5605207 Fax. 02-5617170

**NA'AMAT**  
FRIEDRICH EBERT STIFTUNG  
**Women, Family and the National Budget**  
You are cordially invited to a conference in support of Na'amat's Knesset Bill proposal for child care allowances for working parents with the honorable Minister of Finance  
**Yaacov Ne'eman**  
on Tuesday, December 9, 1997 at 15:45 at  
Belt Sokolov, 4 Kaplan St., Tel Aviv  
15:45 Coffee  
16:15 Opening remarks by  
Elie Aloni, Chairman, Dept. of Economy & Employment, Na'amat  
Türkan Karakurt, Friedrich Ebert Stiftung  
Ofra Friedman, President, Na'amat  
16:30 Yaacov Ne'eman, Minister of Finance  
17:15 Panel discussion with participation of  
Ofra Friedman, Na'amat  
MK Yael Dayan  
MK Maxim Levy  
Dr. Linda Efroni, Economist  
Dr. Varda Mulbauer, Psychologist  
Moderator: Shelly Yechimovich  
\*If the strike continues the conference will be cancelled  
For information and confirmation, please contact: 03-7653733



# IMA joins battle against arrangements bill

By JUDY SIEGEL

The Israel Medical Association has decided to join the struggle against the arrangements bill – a supplement to the state budget – which, should it pass in its present form, is due to effect major changes in the health system starting next month and cost families some NIS 1,000 a year more for medical care.

IMA chairman Dr. Yoram Blachar said an emergency meeting of doctors will be held at Sheba Hospital on Wednesday to discuss ways of preventing harm to the public and the health system. The IMA has declared a work

dispute over the bill and intends to lobby in the Knesset against it.

Blachar said that the Treasury – by attempting to push through the Knesset Finance Committee a bill that will reduce the basket of health services – wants to revoke the egalitarian National Health Insurance Law on its third anniversary.

"The Finance Ministry is misleading the public when it claims that the health system is not competitive and efficient enough and that it is wasteful. The cause of the problems was the Treasury's failure to correctly calculate the real cost of the basket of health services, which rocketed the health funds into massive deficits," he charged.

Blachar added that the Treasury misunderstands the role of the health system and is trying to rid the state of responsibility for public health.

In many countries, it has been proven that uncontrolled competition in the health system is dangerous, since the money saved by the government falls in the end on the shoulders of patients. If the Treasury has its way, community clinics serving areas with 5,000 to 100,000 residents will be closed as "uneconomic."

Preventive medicine – vaccination for babies and follow-up for pregnant women – will be neglected, Blachar warned.



Peres and Barak think their own thoughts yesterday at the Labor Party convention.

(Uzi Oren/over / Israel Sun)

## Peres steals Labor convention limelight by backing Palestinian statehood

By SARAH HONG

Labor chairman Ehud Barak managed to squeeze out only a slim majority at the party convention yesterday for his plan to appoint a director-general.

The Labor leader was also roundly accused of having sides tampered with the composition of the new 2,000-member central committee which the convention met to elect.

The size of the committee was expanded last night from an initial 1,500 in an attempt to ease conflicts. Many in Labor felt that Barak had packed the committee with his own foot soldiers.

Despite the recriminations, there was little excitement at the tedious convention held at Mann Auditorium in Tel Aviv.

The warmest reception went to Barak's predecessor, Shimon Peres,

who came out in favor of Palestinian statehood and withdrawing from the Golan Heights in exchange for peace.

Barak's proposal to draft yeshiva students, which he raised on the eve of the convention, was never brought to a vote, and he barely mentioned it in his speech.

Nothing controversial was put to a vote, besides the proposal to appoint a director-general alongside an elected secretary-general. Fewer than a third of the 3,000 delegates participated in the ballot. Of these, 348 supported Barak and 327 opposed appointing a director-general.

Presidium chairman David Liba'i protested that the vote was too close. "This is no majority. There is no majority here and no minority," he said. He called for another vote at a later date.

Mik Hagai Meron, Barak's most vociferous opponent, felt that the narrow vote had "effectively killed

the director-general notion."

This party said no to a would-be dictator. We don't want a one-man rule and we don't want that one man to appoint his hand-picked administrator to lord it over us."

Barak still has to go back to the party before a director-general can be chosen.

Meanwhile Barak fully retreated from his position last week that it wouldn't be possible to hold Knesset primaries if national elections were moved up.

"I know of no other system and primaries in this party will be held even if we gear up to early elections and must go to the polls within 60 days," he promised.

Acting on his prediction that new elections are in the offing, Barak declared a fund-raising drive to help foot the upcoming campaign bills.

Delegates were urged in the lobby to make contributions by check or credit card. Barak donated NIS 700.

Campaign stickers were distributed in abundance.

Barak promised to reserve a quarter of spots on the Knesset list for women, unless the elections are moved up, which would presumably leave too little time to make the change.

The man who held everyone's attention at the convention was Peres, who received a standing ovation. The somber-looking former premier pulled no punches.

He told the delegates that "if we want a Jewish state then we need to have a non-Jewish state right along side it. We need a real non-Jewish state and not just some vague entity. We need what is explicitly and unequivocally a Palestinian state."

Peres went on to assert that Syrian President Hafez "Assad wants peace but he won't make peace in return for only part of the Golan Heights. If we put this off, the price will not decrease – not even in ten years."

## Ministry gets new weapons boss

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

Maj.-Gen. (res.) Yossi Ben-Hanan took over yesterday as head of SIBAT, the Defense Ministry department that promotes defense exports. He replaced longtime director Brig.-Gen. (res.) David Shoval, the ministry announced yesterday.

Shoval, who headed SIBAT since 1990, will be sent to head the ministry's delegation in Germany.

Israel is the fifth largest arms exporter, with \$1.3 billion in foreign weapons sales, according to the London-based International Institute for Strategic Studies. Last year Israel was the sixth, but it has

since surpassed Germany.

SIBAT is responsible for defense assistance, exports, and is also involved in the sale of IDF military surplus.

Ben-Hanan, 52, faces serious challenges in his new post as the defense industries come under growing pressures to consolidate.

As a young soldier, Ben-Hanan appeared on the cover of LIFE magazine in a photograph from the Six-Day War. He retired from the IDF two years ago.

A veteran armor corps officer, Ben-Hanan was decorated in the Yom Kippur War for leading an assault into Syria, where he was



Yossi Ben-Hanan

severely wounded. Later he served as a commander at the National Defense College.

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Reservations and information



# Video with Raviv at Har-Shefi trial

The lawyer for Margalit Har-Shefi, who is on trial for failing to prevent the murder of Yitzhak Rabin, yesterday introduced into evidence in Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court a videotape of a conversation between his client and General Security Service agent Avishai Raviv.

The videotape was made on November 7, 1995, just after Har-Shefi, a friend of Rabin's assassin, Yigal Amir, was brought in for questioning by police.

In the recording, which was made without Raviv's knowledge,

she tells him: "Yigal did it. It's really sad. He made a mistake. We're in shock. The whole gang's in shock."

In another section, the following conversation takes place after Raviv tells Har-Shefi that Amir is a hero:

"Oh, really. Do me a favor."

"Amir took all the responsibility; he took the whole country on his shoulders; he'll go down in history."

"He will go down in history all right. The question is as what."

"He's a hero"

"You and your heroes! I don't



Margalit Har-Shefi (Israel Sun)

admissibility of Har-Shefi's statements to the police.

Har-Shefi contends that she was prevented from sleeping, that her initial questioning was over 24 consecutive hours, and that she was not allowed to see a lawyer.

She also argued that during a large part of her interrogation no protocol was kept, as it mandated by law, and that the protocol that was kept was altered by the interrogators.

She said that she only saw parts of the protocol, which legally she must sign, after she

was indicted.

Asst.-Cmdr. Yitzhak Meisner, of the National Criminal Investigations Unit, responded by saying that Har-Shefi is a very assertive woman who is well able to stand up for herself.

He said that during her interrogation, she would demand that certain sentences be included in the protocol.

He said that if she had complaints about the length of the questioning or about other conditions, she would have said so and insisted thus be in the protocol. (Ilim)

## Hanegbi asks court to rule on US teen's extradition

By BATSHEVA TSUR

The Maryland teenager wanted in the US for a brutal murder came one step closer to extradition yesterday when Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi formally asked the Jerusalem District Court to rule on whether the youth can be extradited.

The request was presented to the court, on behalf of Hanegbi, by the international department of the State Attorney's Office, which last week received an official extradition request from the US authorities. At the same time, the prosecution asked that the youth be kept in custody until the conclusion of the proceedings.

The court will convene on Wednesday with Judge Yehudit Tsar on the bench.

Earlier, Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein and State Attorney Edna Arbel had expressed the view that the youth could be extradited despite the fact that his father claims Israeli citizenship.

The teen's lawyers have pleaded that he is thus also an Israeli citizen. Under Israeli law, Israeli citizens cannot be extradited for crimes committed abroad.

If the district court rules that he can be extradited, the suspect's lawyers have said they will appeal to the Supreme Court.

The suspect's name cannot be published because he is a minor. He has been in custody for nearly three months, after fleeing here immediately after the September murder.



**Remembering Golda**  
Golda Meir's great-grandchildren lay a wreath on her grave yesterday on Mount Herzl during a memorial marking 19 years since the former prime minister died. (Israel Herald)

## Olmert: I didn't plot to overthrow PM

By ELI WOHLGELER

Jerusalem Mayor Ehad Olmert was not involved in any attempt to overthrow Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, nor does he intend to be in the future unless he sees a deviation on the part of Netanyahu on "fundamental national issues," Olmert said yesterday.

Speaking to the Foreign Press Association, Olmert said that when stories were written about him last month regarding the turmoil within the Likud, "I laughed, as I laugh about some other stories that I read about occasionally in the papers."

"If you recall, I didn't make one statement, nor did I give one interview to the press at that time. I just read all kinds of interpretations about the rebellion and the coup that I was part of. I was not part of any rebellion, I didn't contemplate anything with anyone about unseating the prime minister in the middle, or after the middle, or towards the end of this term."

While conceding that there is "a degree of unrest" within the party

and among ministers who feel they were let down by Netanyahu, Olmert said there "is no need" to speculate whether he will launch a secret challenge to the prime minister.

"If I will have a reason that involves fundamental national issues of the highest order that I believe that are so important they will justify even a challenge to the prime minister, then the first thing I will do will be to go to the prime minister and talk to him about it and tell him, 'Listen, you have failed the country on these issues. I can't trust you anymore, and I am going to now challenge you publicly and try to unseat you.'"

"But believe me, when it will take place, he will know about it and you will know about it and you will not have to speculate. I'll let you know."

On other issues, Olmert said that it is too early to predict the inevitability of a Palestinian state; that the government should set its final settlement parameters now, "because without such a definition, it will be increasingly difficult to reach an understanding within the cabinet for any interim agreement," that there has been "no explicit agreement and no tacit agreement between me" and the prime minister about freezing the building in Har Homa for any period of time, not one day, not one hour.

He also said that while Orient House has not been closed, "you will admit that visits of high-ranking dignitaries stopped altogether. No more foreign ministers, no more prime ministers, no more any ministers come to Orient House. It has lost the high profile it had in the past."

## NEWS

in brief

### Vatican envoy visits Christian sites

A Vatican envoy on foreign affairs began a seven-day tour yesterday of Christian holy sites in the West Bank and Israel. The envoy, Cardinal Silvas Ferrini Akila, plans to meet with Israeli and Palestinian officials.

Yesterday he visited the Bethlehem area, including the Church of the Nativity. He was welcomed at a ceremony held beforehand at Rachel's Tomb, at the entrance to Bethlehem.

The civil administration said yesterday it would allow 4,000 Christians from the West Bank to enter Israel for Christmas holiday observances. (Ilim)

### Suspect in attempted murder remand extended

The Tel Aviv District Court yesterday extended the remand of Nahman Cohen, the Netanya man suspected of attempting to murder Manny Aslan, until the end of legal proceedings. Cohen, 37, was charged September 10 with trying to kill Aslan in front of a restaurant in the Hatikva quarter of Tel Aviv about three months ago. Two other people have also been charged in the case.

The judge determined yesterday that there was enough evidence to incriminate Cohen and that he should remain in custody. (Ilim)

### Girl dies of rabies

A seven-year-old girl from Kalansuwa who was diagnosed with rabies last week died yesterday at Schneider Children's Medical Center in Petah Tikva, after never regaining consciousness.

The girl was apparently scratched on the forehead by an unidentified animal two months ago, but the injury was not reported to the authorities. Family members were vaccinated after the girl was diagnosed.

It was the second death from rabies in a little more than a year. A soldier died of rabies 13 months ago after contracting the illness apparently from a rodent bite. He had been the first fatality from rabies in Israel in about three decades. (Judy Siegel)

### Winter matriculation exams begin

The winter session for matriculation exams, being taken by 65,163 youngsters, began yesterday and will continue through January 5, the Education Ministry said yesterday.

The tests are being given in 11 subjects, with the largest number being tested in math. The ministry has set up special centers to answer questions about the exams. The center can be reached by the following numbers: 02-6518913 in Jerusalem; 03-6160623 in the Tel Aviv area; 04-845408 in Haifa and 07-6283292 in Beersheba. (Artyeh Dean Cohen)

### Talk on link between heart attack, infection

The theory that a heart attack is the end result of an infectious disease caused by bacteria that can be treated or even prevented with antibiotics will be one of the topics for discussion at Israel Medical Week, which will be held, starting today, at the Tel Aviv Fairgrounds.

The event will be accompanied by Medex '97, an exhibition of the latest medical equipment from Israel and abroad.

The theory linking the sexually transmitted chlamydia infection with myocardial infarction was proposed recently in *The Lancet* by Dr. A. Gurfinkel of Buenos Aires.

Follow-up studies being carried out around the world are "very encouraging," said Prof. Raoul Raz, head of the infectious diseases unit at Ha'emek Hospital in Afula, who will lead a discussion of the subject. (Judy Siegel)

## Hizbullah: Progress made in talks over return of Ilya's body

By DAVID RUDGE and news agencies

Progress has apparently been made in negotiations over an exchange deal that would return the remains of naval commando Itamar Ilya.

Hizbullah leader Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah said some positive developments had taken place in the past few days and he expects more progress.

"Contacts will be intensified in the coming couple of days and probably we will reach a complete result," Nasrallah was quoted as saying on Lebanon's Voice of the People radio station.

Eleven naval commandos and an IDF doctor were killed in an abortive raid near Ansariya village, midway between Tyre and Sidon in south Lebanon in September. Ilya's body was not recovered.

Since the incident, Israel has been conducting negotiations through third parties with the Lebanese government and indirectly with Hizbullah to secure the return of Ilya's remains.

The negotiations have been led by the International Red Cross, which has held talks with Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri and Hizbullah leaders.

Nasrallah, who met with Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Viktor Posobvalyuk on Friday, declined to talk about Russia's mediation efforts.

He did, however, suggest that France could assist in the negotiations, while ruling out Germany as a possible mediator because of its strained ties with Iran.

Israel is holding the remains of several Lebanese gunmen, including the body of Nasrallah's son who was killed in a clash with IDF troops in south Lebanon.

The body of Nasrallah's son is reportedly being kept in a hospital morgue, rather than being buried with the remains of other terrorists, to prevent it from being stolen.

Hizbullah is seeking the release of Lebanese held in Israel and in the security zone, as well as the bodies of its gunmen, in return for the remains of Ilya.

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# Iran power struggle on knife-edge

By PAUL TAYLOR

TEHERAN (Reuters) — Behind a facade of unity on display to welcome Islamic world leaders to Iran this week, a power struggle over the future of this Islamic republic is waiting to erupt again.

It pits a cautious, modernizing president against a conservative Shi'ite Moslem leadership which has still not digested his surprise landslide victory last May and has no intention of yielding the levers of power they control.

President Mohammed Khatami, who will host more than two dozen Moslem leaders at the biggest diplomatic event since the 1979 Islamic revolution, faces a tough battle to implement his policies over hardliners supporting supreme Islamic leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

"Mr. Khatami won only the presidential election, that's all," says former foreign minister Ebrahim Yazdi, leader of a small semi-legal liberal opposition party and a sharp observer of Iranian political life.

"The extreme right lost the election but they control all the powers: parliament, radio and television, the security forces, the supreme leader's institutions, the Friday prayers preachers."

"More than that, they have very strong economic power — a big slice of gross national product is controlled by so-called revolutionary foundations that pay no taxes and answer directly to the leader," Yazdi said.

Iran's 1979 constitution, tailor-made for the late revolutionary leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, vests ultimate power in the "faqih" or religious legal scholar, who is commander-in-chief of the armed forces and can make peace or war.

But Khamenei lacks Khomeini's charisma and learning, and his legitimacy has been challenged both by veteran Ayatollah Hossein-Ali Montazeri, sacked as Khomeini's anointed successor after he criticized human rights

abuses, and by dissident philosopher Abdolkarim Soroush, who advocates separating mosque and state.

Khatami, himself a clergyman, controls government ministries but not the police. His speeches are sometimes censored by state television and his efforts to revive an inflation-battered economy are cramped by hardline opposition to taxing wealthy bazaar traders or privatizing the foundations' industrial empire.

Street gangs controlled by the hardliners occasionally turn out to beat up reformist students or prevent intellectuals speaking.

"The only thing Khatami has is the popular support of the nation, which urgently wants change," said businessman Sadegh Samii, who tries to run publishing and inspection companies in a forest of regulations and censorship.

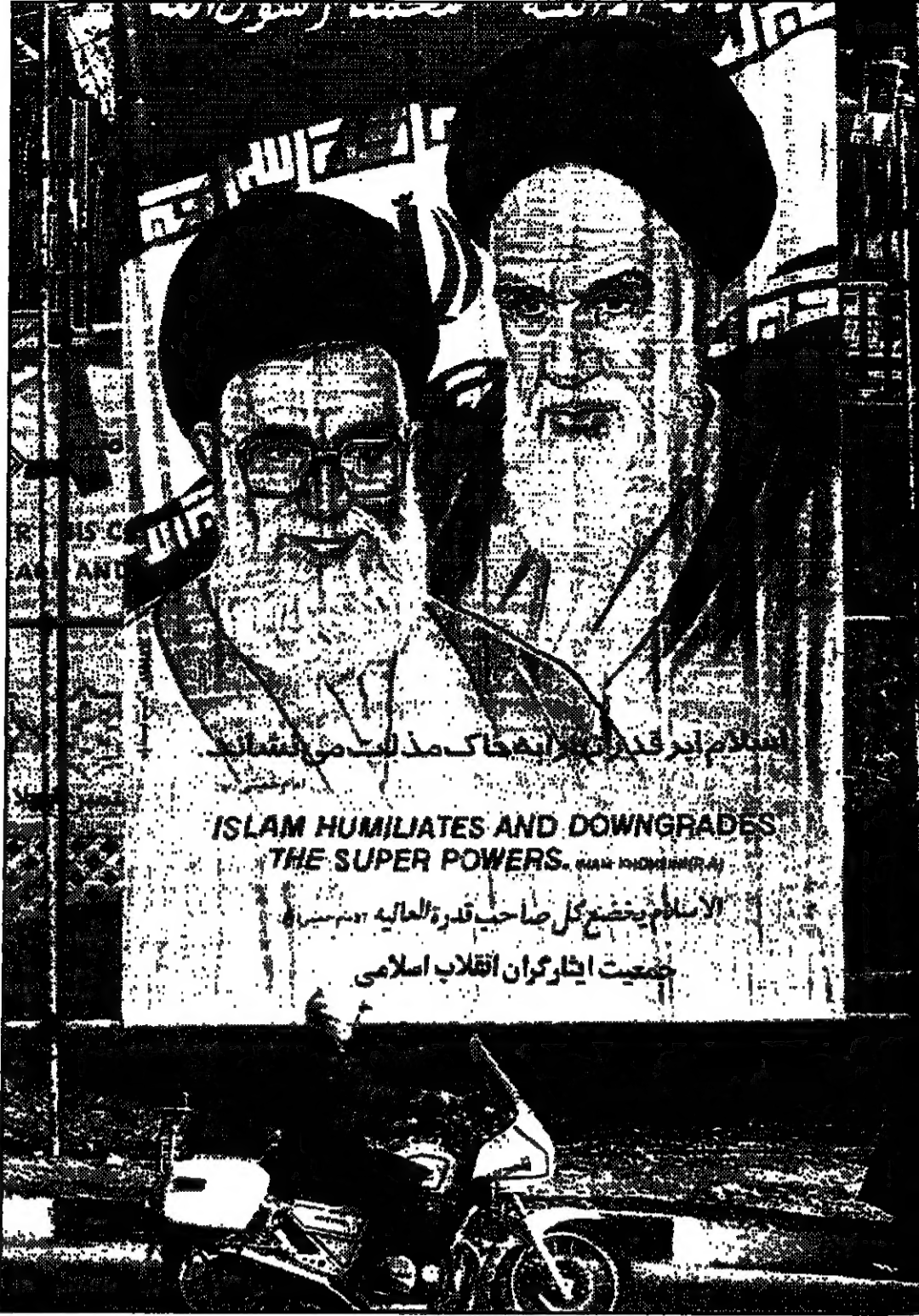
The strength of that "people power" was displayed last week when millions of Iranians poured into the streets spontaneously to celebrate their national soccer team's qualification for the World Cup finals.

Scenes of mixed youth dancing in the street and an incident in which women forced their way into the national sports stadium, defying strict sex segregation, were unanimously seen as a political warning to the ruling clergy.

"The people want to show their power, that if they come out into the streets nothing can stop them," said Shahla Lahiji, a women's rights campaigner and publisher.

"Don't forget that most of our 60 million people are under the age of 25. The country is too young to be ruled by traditional or fundamentalist actions or ideas," she said.

Signs of a desire for greater debate and a liberalization of public life abound. More newspapers and magazines have been authorized since the election and offer a broader spectrum of opinion. Many women are wearing their compulsory Moslem head scarves more loosely.



An Iranian policeman rides his motorcycle next to a mural featuring the Ayatollah Khomeini (right) and Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, Iran's current spiritual leader. (AP)

## Rescuers comb site of Russian air crash

By MAURA REYNOLDS

IRKUTSK (AP) — Hundreds of rescue workers searched for victims in freezing weather yesterday after a cargo jet crashed into an apartment building, exploding in a massive fireball that engulfed surrounding homes and killed at least 62 people.

Rescue officials at the crash site said 62 bodies had been recovered, at least two other people were missing and rescue teams with sniffer dogs still were searching the debris. Some 1,400 emergency workers and soldiers worked through the Siberian winter cold in temperatures of minus 30 Centigrade.

"There was fire. Flames. There were no people. Nothing but flames," said Galina Dmitrova, one of the first emergency workers to arrive at the scene of Saturday's crash.

Crying relatives of missing people watched the rescue operations. One woman, whose husband was missing, sobbed as she pointed at the wreckage of her apartment.

"All I can find are my kitchen knives," she said, begging people to find her husband.

Thirteen people, including 8 children, were hospitalized with severe burns following the crash, officials said.

Parts of the wreckage were still

smoldering more than 24 hours after the jumbo jet-size An-124 slammed into the neighborhood of the Siberian city just seconds after taking off.

Leonid Ismailov, deputy director of the Irkutsk Rescue Service, said officials did not know what caused the crash of the An-124, one of the biggest planes in the world.

"The pilot, the crew, they were lying right there," he said, pointing at where the crew's bodies were found. "Only two of them were in uniform."

The jumbo jet-sized aircraft of the Russian air forces' transport command was carrying 23 people. The pilot radioed the control tower seconds after taking off, saying power had been lost in two engines, the Interfax News Agency reported.

Russian news reports suggested poor fuel may have caused engine failure during take off. Other possible explanations were that the plane's cargo had shifted or pilot error. The plane's black box flight recorders were recovered and sent to Moscow.

The An-124 crashed just 20 seconds after taking off from a factory airfield in Irkutsk, where it had picked up a cargo of two jet fighters being exported to Vietnam. It ploughed into a five-story apartment building and its wing clipped a neighboring orphanage.

## Auschwitz Catholic crosses removed

WARSAW (AP) — Catholic crosses and Star of David symbols, there more than a decade, were removed last week from the grounds of Auschwitz, the camp's museum director said yesterday.

Jerzy Wroblewski said that on Wednesday, eight crosses were turned over to the St. Joseph Roman Catholic church in the nearby city of Oswiecim and 11 Star of David symbols were given to the Jewish History Institute in Warsaw.

The decision was taken following protests by Jewish groups

around the world against the presence of crosses at the Jewish memorial and cemetery.

Miles Lerman, head of the Holocaust Museum Foundation in Washington, in a letter to Poland's leaders praised removal of the religious symbols as "overcoming the last barrier on the path to a historic agreement that will permanently preserve and protect Auschwitz-Birkenau, the largest Nazi death camp."

The white wood symbols were placed at the camp in 1984 and 1986 by young Poles doing maintenance work in Birkenau.

## Three skydivers killed over South Pole

By PETER JAMES SPIELMANN

SYDNEY (AP) — In the first attempt to skydive at the South Pole, three people plunged to their deaths yesterday when their parachutes failed to open.

They were among six skydivers on the jump, organized by Adventure Network International, a private company that has been flying tourists to the South Pole since 1988.

The names of the victims and survivors were not released by US Antarctic officials. The cause of the accident was not immediately known.

A notice circulated to US Antarctic staff by Dwight Fisher, the US National Science Foundation representative at McMurdo Station, confirmed the deaths.

The notice, forwarded to The Associated Press, provided this account:

The skydivers made their attempt yesterday from a Twin Otter airplane, the type ANI usual-

ly uses to fly tourists to the South Pole for a quick visit.

Three chutes failed to open, and the South Pole doctor and emergency team found the bodies after a short search.

Adventure Network International flew the bodies and survivors later yesterday to their base camp at Patriot Hills, between the Ellsworth Mountains and the Ronne Ice Shelf, on the South American side of Antarctica.

From there they were to return to Punta Arenas, Chile, where ANI has an office. It also has an office in London.

Adventure Network International has no connection with the US Antarctic Program or National Science Foundation.

In addition to the South Pole flights, it also organizes mountain climbing expeditions and visits to penguin rookeries. Since no nation owns Antarctica, private companies may organize expeditions to any part of the continent they can reach.



French archaeologist Alain Zivie holds a photograph of a relief on the wall of the tomb of Tutankhamen's wet nurse, Maya. (AP)

## Archeologists find Tutankhamen's wet nurse

By JASPER MORTIMER

CAIRO (AP) — French archeologists have discovered the tomb of the wet nurse of Tutankhamen, the boy-pharaoh whose golden coffins and burial treasures have fascinated generations, the head of the team announced Saturday.

Archeologist Alain Zivie said he hopes the tomb of Maya will shed light on the identity of King Tut's parents.

Tutankhamen's father is widely believed to have been the Pharaoh Akhenaten. As to his mother, "there are all sorts of theories, but she is not known," Zivie told a news conference.

Some experts believe Tut was the son of one of Akhenaten's secondary wives, Kiya. Others theo-

size he was a brother of Akhenaten, whose mother was Queen Tiye.

The tomb, which dates to 1330 BCE, was found in Saqqara, an ancient necropolis that is about 20 kilometers south of Cairo. The existence of a wet nurse to Tut had not been previously known.

Archeologists have explored only part of the multi-chambered tomb, but the reliefs of Tutankhamen, the nurse Maya, and accompanying hieroglyphics leave no doubt as to the identity of the occupant, Zivie said.

A detailed relief of Maya, showing a breast and nipple, is entitled the one "who fed the body of god," Zivie said. The boy Pharaoh was regarded as a god.

It was "extremely rare" for the

ancient Egyptians to devote a whole tomb to a single woman, Zivie said.

The team has cleared two of the five known chambers. A third is filled with rubble, and two others are sealed off with masonry. Zivie expects one of the sealed chambers to lead down to rooms on one or more lower levels.

The archeologists have not yet found any gold or funerary objects, nor have they found Maya's coffin.

"This is the beginning of the story," Zivie said. "There may be discoveries inside the discovery. We can hope that this tomb... has escaped modern robbers and that we will be able to find interesting historic and artistic material, but clearly we cannot promise any-

thing."

He said excavation of the entire tomb could take two years.

The tomb lies at Saqqara, which was the burial site for the courtiers and high-ranking officials of ancient Egypt's New Kingdom, which prevailed from about 1400 BCE to 1100 BCE.

Most of the pharaohs, Tutankhamen included, were buried in the Valley of the Kings near Luxor, about 500 kilometers south of Cairo.

Zivie, research director at the National Center of Scientific Research in Paris, has spent many years exploring tombs at Saqqara. Previously, he found gold objects in the tomb of a New Kingdom prime minister.

## Pope welcomes canned version of St. Peter's

VATICAN CITY (Reuters) — Pope John Paul II yesterday gave his blessing to a group of charity workers who have built a huge replica of St. Peter's Basilica on the outskirts of Rome made entirely out of cans.

The scale model, which uses 10 million aluminium cans and is one-fifth the size of the biggest church in Christendom, has been put together by around 40 supporters of blood and organ donor charities.

"My thoughts, in a special and warm way, go to the volunteers of the AVIS-AIDO [charities]," the pope said in his weekly address from the balcony of the real St. Peter's. "I congratulate those that have undertaken this initiative."

The replica, which was officially opened to the public on Saturday, is made predominantly from bright red Coca Cola cans.

It measures 95 meters long, 48 meters wide, and 29 meters high, with a 20-meter wide dome.

Hans Buetner, a member of the Social Democrats, tabled urgent parliamentary questions over the affair, asking Kohl to consider if Defense Minister Volker Ruehe should be dismissed.

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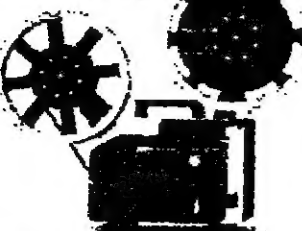
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# Be PC – love your brother

## Movie Review



By Adina Hoffman

**N**othing to Lose is a shamelessly formulaic buddy comedy that stars Tim Robbins and Martin Lawrence as a well-to-do white guy and a down-on-his-luck black guy, respectively, who meet up when the latter tries to mug the former.

Little does T. (Lawrence) know, but at the time of the attempted robbery Nick (Robbins) has just come home early from work and discovered his wife in bed with another man: he's feeling unnaturally mean as a result and so refuses to let his attacker out of his car. The two cruise out of LA and into the desert, exchange the usual volley of racially charged insults, have a clumsy fist fight in the sand and, after overcoming their standard-issue bad rapport, become



Inept carjacker T. Paul (Martin Lawrence, left) and adman Nick Beam (Tim Robbins) become the odd couple of the road.

## NOTHING TO LOSE

Written and directed by Steve Oedekerk. Hebrew title: *Eis na lahefida*. 100 minutes. English dialogue, Hebrew subtitles. Parental guidance strongly advised.

standard-issue best pals, deciding in the process that skin color and social class should be no obstacle to their joining together to commit a major felony.

Although writer/director Steve Oedekerk does manage a few neat stylistic tricks – he treats the soundtrack as one of the players, for instance, letting it stop and respond and even talk back at various points in the action – the

script relies on a series of complications and contrivances so familiar, obvious and lame, their use seems almost audacious. (The film's resolution is broadcast in the first five minutes, which may be a new record.)

Oedekerk's broad approach to the silly material – overplaying each gag, drawing most jokes out well past the funny point – worked a bit better in his *Ace Ventura* films (he wrote the first and directed the second of those lively peons to arrested development). This success, though, was due mostly to Jim Carrey, who's

such an inventive performer that he's able to sustain and even improve on a dumb punch line, the longer it lingers. In those films, comic stupidity was treated with a certain relish: the cruder and cornier the joke, the better. Good taste was dismissed entirely and Carrey given carte blanche to run wild.

But Oedekerk doesn't allow the stars of *Nothing to Lose* Carrey's license to riff. And though both Lawrence, a big-eared, muggy squirt, and the more dryly smirk-prone Robbins can be amusing at times, the director pushes their

obvious differences way over the top at the same time that he hems the characters in and confines them to type. The film follows a basic have-your-cake-and-eat-it-too design, first following the lead of films like *48 Hours* and *Lethal Weapon* and finding edgy humor in the barely masked racial tensions between the two main players.

(Lawrence calls Robbins "white boy" and Robbins condescends by telling Lawrence he really should get a job.) Then, after all the noisy slapstick and in-your-face stereo-

type of the early parts, Oedekerk claims up and offers a tidy love-your-brother message which seems more than a little disingenuous after all the ha-ha hostility that's preceded.

It's typical, however, of the socially aware new commercial American pictures coming our way these days that the single subject treated with caution and nuance is race relations. In the politically correct but flamboyantly infantile world these films represent, blacks and whites are equally free – free to crack flamboyant jokes, free to be truly vulgar.

## A new direction for the IPO?

By MICHAEL AJENSTADT

**W**hen British-born conductor Antonio Pappano, the music director of the La Monnaie Opera House in Brussels, was appointed chief guest conductor of the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra last year, there was speculation that this was just a stepping-stone to the position of IPO music director.

Granted, the IPO has a music director, Zubin Mehta, who was awarded the position for life, but for many years there have been rumors that Mehta might want to step down, especially with his own new appointment as music director of the Bavarian Staatsoper in Munich beginning next season. Mehta has said on many occasions that the best replacement when and if he steps down – "only if they ask me" – would be Israeli conductor Daniel Barenboim. But Barenboim is too busy running both the Chicago Symphony and the Deutsche Staatsoper Berlin.

So is Pappano the ideal solution? Is he indeed going to be the new IPO music director?

Pappano, having spent about a month with the orchestra, says that as far as he is concerned the new title means "an invitation to spend more time with the orchestra. This year it's a month, next year it will

be more. Each year my time with the orchestra will increase. The ideal time would be two months a year. And there will be mutual benefits. I want to expand my symphonic repertoire, and the orchestra is doing opera which is where I come from anyway. But I don't know; I can't tell you where it will go."

This month, Pappano leads the IPO in concert performances of Verdi's *Otello* and in several orchestral concerts with the Faure *Requiem* and other compositions by Pergolesi and Honegger, and even Beethoven's Fifth, which was not originally scheduled.

Is this because of popular audience demand after the recent success of Beethoven's Ninth? "Not really. I will do this work with the orchestra on our European tour in a few months, and I must do it with them in concert before. As we could not arrange any concert dates before the tour, we decided to add it to the subscription concerts."

Pappano takes the IPO on a tour of London, Geneva, Paris and Brussels, where the program comprises the Beethoven *Egmont* overture and the Fifth Symphony, including a concerto with alternating soloists Murray Perahia, Maxim Vengerov and Jane Eaglen.

A few weeks ago, Pappano was thrilled to find out that his record-



British-born Pappano will be spending more time here.

ing of Puccini's *La Rondine* won the prestigious *Gramophone* magazine Record of the Year award.

"It was a bit of a surprise. I knew we were going to win the Opera Disc of the Year award, but I never

thought about the bigger award. I was thrilled because it's a piece I love. It's full of great tunes. It's really a great opera which is not often performed because, frankly, the last act is not that good."

At 37, Pappano says the only thing he has to contend with is physical and mental fatigue. He now limits his engagements to specific orchestras (Berlin Philharmonic, London Symphony and Cleveland) and not much opera, aside from Brussels and his upcoming Bayreuth Festival debut in 1999 with *Lohengrin*.

Will he have the stamina to become the new IPO music director? Will Pappano be interested if the offer is made? "If it happens, that's great. If not, that's fine too. Either way, I'm in Brussels until 2003 and would not have time for such a position before that. But let's wait and see. I feel I'm being tested, which is all right with me because I don't think anybody can test me more critically than I test myself."

Next season Antonio Pappano leads the IPO in concert performances of Tchaikovsky's *Eugene Onegin* and orchestral programs of music by Schoenberg, Brahms, Shostakovich, Schubert and Mahler. This month he leads the IPO in concerts at the Mann Auditorium in Tel Aviv until December 22.

## Ashdod orchestra on the warpath

By HELEN KAYE

**A**shdod's Israel Andalusian Orchestra (IAO) is on the warpath. It's not that it has canceled its season or is swinging tomahawks, but "it's time," says IAO general manager Moti Malca, "for oriental cultural institutions to begin getting their proper share of the public arts funding."

He was speaking at the press conference introducing the IAO's third season, which encompasses five programs of the classical North African music inspired by the area's Moorish and Jewish influences, together with Arab classical music and contemporary Andalusian-inspired Israeli compositions. One of this season's highlights is a concert with guest star Avi Toledano, who'll sing Andalusian classics with a nod to pop.

The IAO is a chamber orchestra of immigrant musicians from the former USSR who have accustomed themselves to the very untamed tonalities of Andalusian Western tonality, says IAO founder, music director and musicologist, Dr. Avi Ilam-Amsaleg. "They have even learned to improvise within the

genre which is at the heart of this music."

The string players are accompanied by an ensemble of traditional instrument players, such as the oud and the wooden flute.

In its first two seasons, the IAO has more than doubled its subscribers from a few hundred to more than 3,000 in the nine locations countrywide (10 this year), where it has performed regularly.

"People are hungry for their music," says Malca. "We get scores of letters asking us to come back, for more of this kind of music," as opposed to the pseudo-oriental rhythms that are also popular among Sephardi Israelis.

And that is where the problem lies. Sephardi culture has been shortchanged in favor of Western (read "European") cultural values ever since the first immigrants from Russia arrived here at the end of the 19th century.

This is not conjecture but fact, and now the country's Sephardi community is waking up, and the IAO with it.

"Why haven't we received our subsidy from the Ashdod municipality?" asks Malca rhetorically, adding that the mayor's office

wanted the IAO to merge with the Ashdod Chamber Orchestra "for budgetary reasons, but they've found the money to fund a huge production of *La traviata*" (the Verdi opera premiered in Ashdod at the end of last month). The Andalusian Orchestra, he contends, makes more sense for the city, which is almost 80% Sephardi.

Last year singer and Jerusalem city councilman Yehoram Gaon was similarly blunt about his reasons for pushing the Jerusalem-based Center for Classical Oriental Music and Dance.

"The study of oriental music, and I mean mainly the music of the Islamic countries, is barely a comma in the syllabus of our music schools," he said then, adding that "the melting-pot theory of the '50s never happened, and immigrants from North Africa and the Near East found their music and their culture denied."

The Jerusalem center gets a tiny budget from the municipality. The IAO gets 54% of its NIS 2.74 million budget from the Arts and Culture Authority (ACA), 25% is earned income, and another NIS 540,000 (20%) comes from the Ashdod municipality.

But the municipality has paid up less than half of that, and the ACA told IAO that not only would it not get the requested parity with the almost same-size Beersheba Sinfonietta but that its 1997 budget would be NIS 570,000, or less than half the promised NIS 1.5m.

The IAO is at the bottom of a funding totem pole in which, according to IAO figures, NIS

78.9m. goes to Western-type musical institutions and NIS 1.5m. to itself. And Israelis of North African or Near Eastern origin make up some 50% of the population. Even if the figures are not totally correct, they certainly are a little lopsided.

The Ashdod municipality could not be reached for comment due to the Histadrut strike.

**ESRAVISION**  
TV CHANNEL 9  
Yiddish Theater - Scenes with Atzmon & Son  
ESRA Nearly New Shop: ESRA Events.

Tevel - Tel Aviv - Dan Area	6.30 p.m.
Matav - Haifa Town Area	5.00 p.m.
Netanya Area	7.30 p.m.
Idan - Central & Southern Area	7.30 p.m., 9.30 p.m.
Arutzel	
Zahav - Dan & Sharon Areas	9.30 a.m., 9.00 p.m.

## NEWS of the muse

### Brush up your Yiddish!

Last year's festival was such a success that they're doing it again. On December 28, the second week-long International Yiddish Festival gets under way at the Neveh Dan Resort Hotel near Jerusalem. The headliner is songstress Nehama Hendel. There will also be klezmer concerts, a Yiddish cabaret with Mendi Cohen and his troupe, readings from Yiddish literature, and even a trip to Masada with Yiddish explanations.

Helen Kaye

### Award-winning musicians and conductors

The Music Division of the local Council for the Arts has announced the winners of this year's awards for performing musicians. Maestro Mendi Rodan was awarded a special prize for his outstanding lifelong achievements. The Jerusalem Quartet won the prize for chamber music ensemble. Flutist Noam Buchman and pianist Benji Hochman won prizes for first-rate performance of Israeli music. A special prize to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the State of Israel was awarded to alto Mira Zakai. The award will be presented at a ceremony on December 25 at the Israel Museum, Jerusalem.

While Rodan received his own award, one of his students, conductor Ronen Burshevsky, won third prize in the prestigious conducting competition held recently in Tokyo. Of the 65 young conductors from 32 countries who participated in the competition, Burshevsky was the youngest finalist. His award consists of \$5,000 plus a contract for concerts in Japan. There was no first prize awarded in the competition.

Michael Ajenstadt

### Musical chairs

Leor Segal, general director of the Leonard Bernstein International Music Competition Jerusalem, was appointed general director of the Haifa Symphony Orchestra, replacing Ben-Ami Enav, who was appointed general director of the BatSheva Dance Company.

Arthur Post was appointed associate conductor of the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra, replacing Mendi Rodan who left the position when he was appointed music director of the Israel Symphony Orchestra Rishon LeZion. The American conductor makes his IPO debut December 9, leading the IPO in a family concert.

Michael Ajenstadt

### Happy birthday, Zvi Avni

The local music community is celebrating the 70th birthday of composer Zvi Avni with a series of concerts throughout the country, including a concert at the Jerusalem Rubin Music Academy on December 17, where six of his works will be performed. Last week the Tel Aviv Municipality celebrated the occasion with a festive concert of Avni's works.

Michael Ajenstadt

### Female prisoners and teenage girls



A photography exhibition featuring the works of photographer Debbie Taylor-Zimelman opens today in Jerusalem at the photography gallery of the Bezalel Art School on the Mount Scopus campus of the Hebrew University. The exhibition, which will run through January 1, 1998, features portraits of prisoners in the country's only women's prison, Neveh Tirtza, and of teenage girls from London and Jerusalem. The above photo of 12-year-olds Sophie Lurie (left) and Lindsey Waugh was taken at a railway station in London.

The exhibition, whose official opening takes place tomorrow at 6 p.m., is open to the public from Sunday – Thursday, 9 a.m. – 6 p.m. Taylor-Zimelman also works as a freelance photographer for *The Jerusalem Post*.

Jerusalem Post Staff

## SEE IT IN HEBREW- HEAR IT IN ENGLISH!

### FATHER OF THE GROOM

December 9, at 8:30 p.m.

There's going to be a wedding! The groom has not invited his father, but the bride's mother has done so in secret. The father of the groom arrives at the wedding – with a vengeance! For the wedding to be as a wedding should be, he brings a Russian accordionist he found in the street, and his blind son who longs to be a bride. The expected explosion is, of course, unavoidable.



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## A costly strike

The Histadrut strike is over, at least for now. And while the government may have won a crucial point, it has paid a high price for this victory.

If, as a result of this showdown, the Histadrut has swallowed a change that puts the public-sector pension system on the road to a financially sound footing, that would be a major government achievement. The price, however, may be a Histadrut strengthened by its having brazenly flouted court orders without being punished. In his press conference yesterday, Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman highlighted the government's looming pension obligations: NIS 163 billion for government workers, about NIS 300b., when all public-sector enterprises are taken into account. As Neeman pointed out, the question is not whether such sums can be paid, but at whose expense. Either the defense, education, and social welfare budgets would have to be slashed, or the government would have to raise taxes or print money. None of these alternatives are particularly attractive, and even Histadrut Chairman Amir Peretz knows this.

Israel, like many other Western democracies, is confronting the need to stop making open-ended financial commitments to its people, in effect slapping future generations with a bill for promises made today. Even Sweden was forced to overhaul its social spending system when spiraling deficits forced interest rates up, and Germany and Italy are facing serious pension crises which are not over yet.

What Neeman may have accomplished with yesterday's agreement is to switch the pension system from an item in the budget, riding on automatic pilot towards a cliff, to an off-budget system of contributions into managed pension funds. This agreement only would apply to new workers entering the system, so it does not solve the problem of existing obligations, but it does prevent the government from going deeper in the hole.

This accomplishment is tempered by two facts: Those huge pension obligations are still looming, so the next confrontation over pensions is probably just a matter of time; and the Histadrut was allowed to get away with a serious challenge to the rule of law, and therefore could well repeat the tactic in the future.

While both employers and employees have

violated labor court orders in the past, this may be the first time the Histadrut as a body has done so in a nationwide strike. Labor courts cannot hand out prison sentences, but they can impose stiff fines for contempt of court. But when the Histadrut ignored the court order — after Neeman's ill-timed and ill-tempered outburst that gave them the excuse — the government continued to negotiate and no fines were imposed. Even more significantly, the Histadrut came out of its illegal strikes with most of its demands met.

The Histadrut succeeded in signing the Treasury on to the controversial "yellow note" agreement between Peretz and then-finance minister Avraham Shohat, which further sweetened the existing untenable pension system, though the Treasury did succeed in capping the potential pension increase to NIS 650 a month. In an even more far-reaching victory, the Histadrut received a commitment to negotiate with them on all the major items on the economic reform, such as privatization, structural reform, and child allowances.

It is tempting to believe that both sides will have emerged from so massive and destructive a strike committed to solving future problems at the negotiating table. But the danger is now that the Histadrut has succeeded in crossing the line set by the court, it either will do so again, or will effectively use the implied threat of a repeat performance to extract more concessions from the government. This increased power does not bode well for the future of the economy in general, and the government's economic reform program in particular.

Now, more than ever, the government cannot rely on pure political muscle to push its programs through, even when it is representing the best interests of the entire economy. The fact that the government's economic case is so strong, however, means that there is no reason to shy away from selling its program to the public, thereby undercutting the Histadrut's power from its base.

When Neeman stated that unemployment was the nation's No. 1 problem, he was on the right track. The key to this battle will be convincing the public that economic reform can create a tide that will raise all boats, not least of all those of society's weakest sectors.

## Minority power

YOSEF GOELL

The headline in last Thursday's paper: "Half of Israeli Arabs oppose flying national flag over schools," was typical of the glass-is-half-empty vs. the glass-is-half-full situations.

I would have been more impressed by the choice of a "glass-is-half-full" headline: "42 percent of Israeli Arabs favor flying national flag over schools," because the choice Israeli Arabs are making should be seen in a broader international and historic context. (The headline headed a report of a survey conducted by Dr. Eli Rekhess of Tel Aviv University's Program for the Study of Arab Politics in Israel.)

I know that 130 years after the end of the United States' traumatic Civil

It is only when one realizes that the Arab minority in Israel is much closer to the Yugoslav and Ulster examples than to the American one, that it becomes possible to grasp the full import of 42 percent of Israeli Arabs agreeing to fly Israel's flag "only a short" half century after the trauma of the 1948 war.

One of the main findings of the survey is that Israeli Arabs are becoming aware of their growing political power. This has been further magnified by the newly introduced direct popular elections of the prime minister. In 1996, the Arabs voted overwhelmingly for Labor's Shimon Peres. They still indicate a preference for Labor's Ehud Barak to the Likud's Benjamin Netanyahu, but many are also threatening to withhold their first-round vote from Barak and vote for an Arab candidate. Many Arabs say they want to create an Arab political bloc that would rival the Jewish religious bloc as a balance of power between the two major governing parties — Labor and the Likud. This has led some Jews on the extreme Right to demand that Israeli Arabs be denied the vote.

There is real cause to suspect the motivations and loyalties of many Israeli Arabs on issues that touch on our conflict with their Palestinian cousins. The way to deal with this problem is not to undermine our democracy by denying the Arabs the vote, but rather by normalizing their impact on that specific issue by pressing the major leaders of both the Likud and Labor to rise above themselves and hammer out a practical Jewish Israeli consensus on the Palestinian issue.

Israeli Arabs, for their part, should realize that minorities must use their political power wisely and with restraint. They are fully entitled to use their political power to fight for greater equality with Jews. They should, however, flee as from fire any overt involvement in crucial

**Israeli Arabs should realize that minorities must use their political power wisely and with restraint**

War, the Confederate "Stars and Bars" is still flown in many locales in the defeated South. Three or four decades ago it was flown not only as a redneck joke or a youthful prank but as a widely supported declaration of continued defiance of the hated Yankee North. Such animosities faded slowly indeed, even when the war they seek to commemorate was between "cousins" from the same ethnic group.

When the historic wars in question were between rival ethnic and religious groups, the animosities tend to be jealously preserved and even exacerbated over centuries. This was the case in former Yugoslavia, where the memories of who was on what side during the Turkish invasion of seven centuries ago were sufficient to trigger a mini-genocide earlier this decade.

## Global warming fundamentalists

CHARLES KRAUTHAMMER

The world is meeting in Kyoto, Japan, to decide how much wreckage to visit upon the Western economies to prevent global warming. Kyoto aims to seriously reduce greenhouse gas emissions, which would seriously curtail energy use and, with it, economic growth. All under the premise that humans produce global warming and that global warming will produce a human catastrophe. Is this true?

There has been a very slight warming of the earth's atmosphere in this century (although one still has to explain why satellite and balloon data show no net temperature rise in the past 19 years).

But first, it is not clear how much is caused by natural variation only. Second, even assuming a substantial human contribution, it is not clear what, say, a doubling of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions would do to temperatures.

You get can get answers by modeling. But scientific models are notoriously subject to the tweaking of underlying assumptions.

The predictions of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change have already been significantly modified. In 1990 it predicted a 6-degree (F) rise by 2100. The prediction now is down to a 3 1/2-degree rise, a 40 percent drop. And there is a huge range of uncertainty: The lower-end estimate is less than 2 degrees F.

But uncertainty is a feeling foreign to global warming fundamentalists, many of them now gathered in

Kyoto. Take that great American evangelist, Vice President Gore, a last-minute attendee. Now, Gore may turn out to be the environmentalist villain because he fears infuriating his labor allies at home if he agrees to serious curbs on US CO<sub>2</sub> (and thus energy) production. But whatever he ends up doing for personal political reasons, it is clear what he believes. Just two months

Indeed, "the doubling of carbon dioxide" — which is what Kyoto is trying so desperately to prevent — "would produce a temperature change of less than one degree [centigrade]," Schneider argued then that the real threat was global cooling: The production of aerosols screening earth from the sun could produce "a decrease of the mean surface temperature by as much as

**This is nuclear winter without the nukes**

ago, he likened those who question global warming to tobacco executives who with a "straight face" denied that smoking causes cancer. This is a serious charge: not just error, but bad faith.

This attitude is echoed by many scientists. Stephen Schneider, a Stanford scientist and participant at Clinton and Gore's Global Climate Change Roundtable last July, has said that when it comes to global warming it is "journalistically irresponsible to present both sides." It is worth noting that 25 years ago this same Schneider was vociferously denying global warming. Even a tenfold increase in human production of carbon dioxide, he wrote, "which at the present rate of input is not expected within the next several thousand years" is "unlikely to produce a runaway greenhouse effect on Earth."

3.5 degrees centigrade," which "if sustained over a period of several years... could be sufficient to trigger an ice age."

This is nuclear winter without the nukes. And this was no offhanded comment. This was a paper in the prestigious journal *Science*, complete with equations containing a gaudy excess of exponents and Greek subscripts.

NOR was Schneider alone. In the 1970s, which were — surprise! — cold, global cooling was the vogue. Nigel Calder, former editor of *New Scientist*, said in 1975 that "the threat of a new ice age must now stand alongside nuclear war as a likely source of wholesale death and misery for mankind." And *Science Digest* declared that "how carefully we monitor our atmospheric pollu-

tion will have direct bearing on the arrival and nature of this weather crisis" — i.e., a new "ice age."

All this doom-saying provoked J. Murray Mitchell of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to remark in 1976 that "whenever there is a cold wave, they [the media] seek out a proposition of the ice-age-is-coming school and put his theories on page one.... Whenever there is a heat wave... they turn to his opposite number [for a prediction of] a kind of heat death of the earth."

It is one thing to change your mind. It is another to then, with the zeal of the convert, write the view you have just abandoned out of polite society, as does Schneider by saying that journalists shouldn't even present the non-global warming view, and as does Gore when he makes skeptics into the moral equivalent of tobacco executives. Ironically, as climate change predictions become more malleable and contingent, climate change activists become more inflexible and intolerant.

The ease with which politicians, popularizers and even scientists can be caught up in popular enthusiasms for one doomsday or another should give us pause. This is not a call for ignoring climate change. It is a call for a modicum of humility before we go ahead and wreck the good life we've developed over 200 years in the name of a theory.

(Washington Post Writers Group)

## Ministerial accountability

DAVID NEWMAN

net ministers. His independent stance on the issue of conversions and his recent appearance before the Reform movement convention may not have been to the liking of his fellow religious and haredi cabinet colleagues, but he stood his ground, firm in the knowledge that they would not be able to bring about his downfall.

At the same time, his single-minded handling of the economy, result-

States, it is rare for cabinet ministers elsewhere in the world to be drawn from outside the ranks of the elected party faithful. After all, for many, this is the ultimate goal to be achieved in a political career. Having spent much time doing the rounds of the party branches, shaking hands, smiling at babies and attending an unending list of bar mitzvahs, circumsessions and wed-

**Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman's behavior this past week has done little to support the idea of appointing ministers who are not directly responsible to political parties**

ing in direct confrontation with the Histadrut leadership, has equally demonstrated the problems of ministerial independence. While he may not have a party to answer to, there are many who see him as representing much more powerful private business interests, at the expense of the country's workers. A Knesset-appointed finance minister would, it is argued, be far more careful in publicly offending such a large sector of the country's population, if only because they would need their votes to get reelected next time round.

WITH the exception of the United

States, they are unlikely to give up their opportunity of a having a senior government post, in favour of an outside appointee. Cabinet members in America are not engaged in a daily struggle to please the party faithful and to retain their positions of power, unlike the case in Israel where it often seems that the amount of time a cabinet minister devotes to his/her job is simply that part of the day which is free from internal party wranglings. But the United States example does possess an intricate system of checks and balances, with much of the proposed executive legislation

having to be approved by both Houses of Congress before it can be implemented. Members of the cabinet also have to be approved by Congress committees before they can take up their posts.

Even if half of the Israeli cabinet were from outside the Knesset, the other half would still have an important say in executive decision making. Achieving a good balance between the party faithful and the professional outsiders who can cross the lines of inter-party ideological differences could make for a much better cabinet structure than we have today. But the Neeman example shows just how difficult it is to make the right appointment, especially if the appointment is itself based on political, rather than professional, considerations on the part of the prime minister.

Whether, in the long term, it is a good policy, remains to be seen. It is an experiment which should be expanded and tested over a wider range of portfolios. But it should not be used as a means of making ministers totally unaccountable to the people they are supposed to serve. If, as appears to have been the case this week, these interests are simply discarded, there will be little justification for making similar appointments in the future.

The writer is professor of political geography and director of the Humphrey Institute for Social Research at Ben Gurion University of the Negev.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### CALLOUS DISREGARD

Sir, — The tirade against the Israel Defense Forces by Dr. Nancy Dubrow, director of the Taylor Institute International Child Welfare Group (November 30), who calls the Israel Defense Forces "a violator of the sanctity of human life" following the shooting death of an Arab boy during fierce rioting in Bethlehem, is yet one more blatant example of the callous disregard with which such organizations and their spokespersons view the murder of Jewish children at the hands of Arab terrorists.

Somewhat, the firebombing of the Israeli bus (one of many such atrocities) in which Rachel Weiss, her three babies under the age of five, and the unborn child she was carrying, who were all burned to death; the cold-blooded shooting of Shlomo Lapid

together with his father Mordechai; the knife slaying of Helena Rapp; the killing and dismemberment of Roan Karamani and Lior Tubul; the murder of young David Boim and countless others including children slain in the recent suicide bombings in Jerusalem... none of these young victims have elicited the passionate outrage and condemnation against the Arab perpetrators which Dr. Dubrow levels at Israel.

As to her assertion that "the shooting death of yet another innocent Palestinian child is a crime under every international treaty" and that "the IDF is responsible for the death of this child" I ask — are the deaths of Jewish children not a similar crime? Who is responsible for the deaths of our innocent chil-

dren? Who are the violators of the sanctity of their human lives?

In conclusion, Dr. Dubrow questions whether we believe that the "Palestinian community loves their children less than we Israelis love our own children, and would deliberately place them in harm's way." It would much more behoove her penetrating query to be directed at Yasser Arafat, who on numerous occasions, expressed his willingness to sacrifice millions of Arab men, women and yes, children, to achieve his goal of replacing Israel with a Palestinian state!

SHIFRA HOFFMAN  
Founder and director, Victims of Arab Terror International, Jerusalem.

### SEX ON THE NET

Sir, — "Sex On the Net" (December 3) brought back memories of this summer when our computer school started children's programs and we discovered the problems of having to monitor chat groups and sex-site access. The latter problem was resolved with a 20 license version of "Net Nanny," one of the better commercial programs available which filters out obscenities and objectionable sites.

The monitoring of chat groups was a little more difficult, as

children tend to believe that what they are told on the Internet is the truth. We just set down the following rules and this has resolved the problem:

When you set up an e-mail account, never use your real name as your "handle" or "username."

Never reveal your phone number or address or any identifying personal details.

If the language or content on your chat group is objectionable, change rooms or if this is an option, report it to the moderator.

If you can be anyone you want on the Net, so can everyone else. Everything you see or hear on the Net is not true.

As far as objectionable content on cable TV is concerned, Arutz Zahav can provide you with a little black box which connects to your cable box and is password protected. It enables you to block access to channels which you find objectionable.

KATHY SALMANSON  
Jerusalem.

## FROM OUR ARCHIVES

65 years ago: On December 8, 1932, *The Palestine Post* reported mounting opposition to the Palestine Legislature proposal made by the Government. The *Post* also criticized the proposed Education Bill and explained at length that a proposed Legislature might affect unfavorably the Jewish minority, while there was a need for an autonomy for Jewish schools as suggested by the Jewish Agency's Executive.

50 years ago: On December 8, 1947, *The Palestine Post* reported six more Jews and one Arab killed in various incidents. A

Jewish girl, Pessia Lev, 19, was shot by a sniper when a convoy was attacked near Bab el Wad, on the Jerusalem-Tel Aviv road. Five persons were injured in Jerusalem when No. 9 bus was attacked coming down from Mount Scopus.

Mobilization centers opened at various schools. Sniping and arson continued in Haifa. Jewish shops were evacuated there from Khatib Street.

The Hagana beat off an Arab attack in Tel Aviv's Manshieh Quarter.

25 years ago: On December 8,

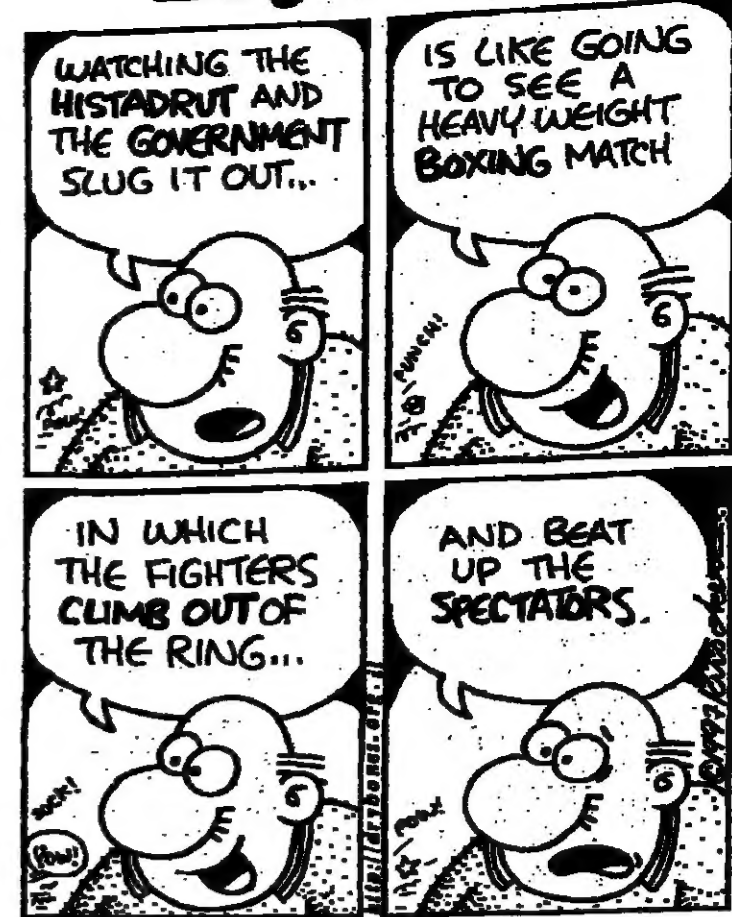
1972, *The Jerusalem Post* reported that congratulatory messages from all over the world were still pouring into its offices on the occasion of the newspaper's 40th anniversary.

What appeared to be large deposits of high-quality non-ferrous minerals were discovered in the Sinai Desert.

A compromise was reached in the UN General Assembly aimed at gaining more votes for a resolution asking the Security Council "to take appropriate steps towards a Middle East peace settlement."

Alexander Zvielli

## Dry Bones



decisions resolving our conflict with the Palestinians and Syrians. If they do not, they will find that they will have invited a serious backlash, which could undermine their achievements on the equality front. Neither Jew nor Arab should desire such a setback.

THE problem is not only with the Arabs, but with the Jews too, as was shown last week by the shameful firebombing of a Jerusalem apartment rented by three Arab women students at the Hebrew University. It is no secret that there are vicious, racist Arab-haters among Israeli Jews, especially of the newly aggressive fundamentalist variety, just as there are vicious Jew-haters among the Arab population. But Mayor Ehud Olmert failed the test of leadership miserably when he sought to draw a parallel between

the violent act against the young Arab women and political opposition to Jews coming to live in Jerusalem's Ras al-Amud.

The mayor should have used the opportunity to find Jewish landlords to volunteer to rent an alternative apartment for the terrorized Arab women. For that matter, the Hebrew University should have moved heaven and earth to find such volunteers to welcome the firebombed women.

It is in our interest as Jews to help Israeli Arabs integrate fully into Israel. The problem is that we Jews have the finely tuned 2,000-year-old instincts of a persecuted minority; but only 50 years of experience as a majority, and we haven't made the switch comfortably, as yet.

The writer comments on public affairs.



1997 The Jerusalem Post

ry Bones

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# Weekly Review

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9

## Highway Patrol

### The Self-Appointed Cops of the Information Age

By AMY HARMON

WASHINGTON

**A**T a conference last week on protecting children from on-line pornography, Floyd Abrams, the First Amendment lawyer, was asked his view of the problems with software programs that screen out objectionable material. "The only problem with private filters," Mr. Abrams replied, "is to make sure they don't become public filters."

The primary concern of the defenders of free speech has been resistance to government control. And the three-day meeting here of industry, government and advocacy-group representatives — the "On-line Summit" — came after a resounding victory for the civil libertarian cause on the Internet: In June, the Supreme Court overturned the Communications Decency Act, saying Congress's attempt to criminalize the distribution of indecent speech over computer networks violated the First Amendment.

But even among digital libertarians, there is a growing fear that technology that can block huge portions of what the Court called "the most mass participatory medium yet invented" may pose a more potent threat to unfettered speech than the Government ever did.

Early next year, the Anti-Defamation League plans to distribute rating software that will screen out anti-Semitic Web sites. Catholic Telecom Inc., an Internet service provider run by Catholic Information Center on the Internet, based in Hillsdale, N.J., is

#### In cyberspace, Big Brother is not the main enemy of free speech.

also developing its own rating system.

"Roman Catholics have their own standards based on the natural law and the revelations in the Old and New Testaments," said Catholic Telecom's president, James Mulholland Jr. "Teaching children how to engage in safe fornication, that's an instance where ours might be different with a more generalized database. We would be labeling so parents can block them out."

Just as the Communications Decency Act would have thrown out the baby with the bathwater, so does, it seems, some of the software the on-line industry and some advocacy groups propose as a substitute.

The American Civil Liberties Union, which led the constitutional challenge to the law, finds itself in unfamiliar territory: fighting private choices about speech. The A.C.L.U. declined to endorse the confer-

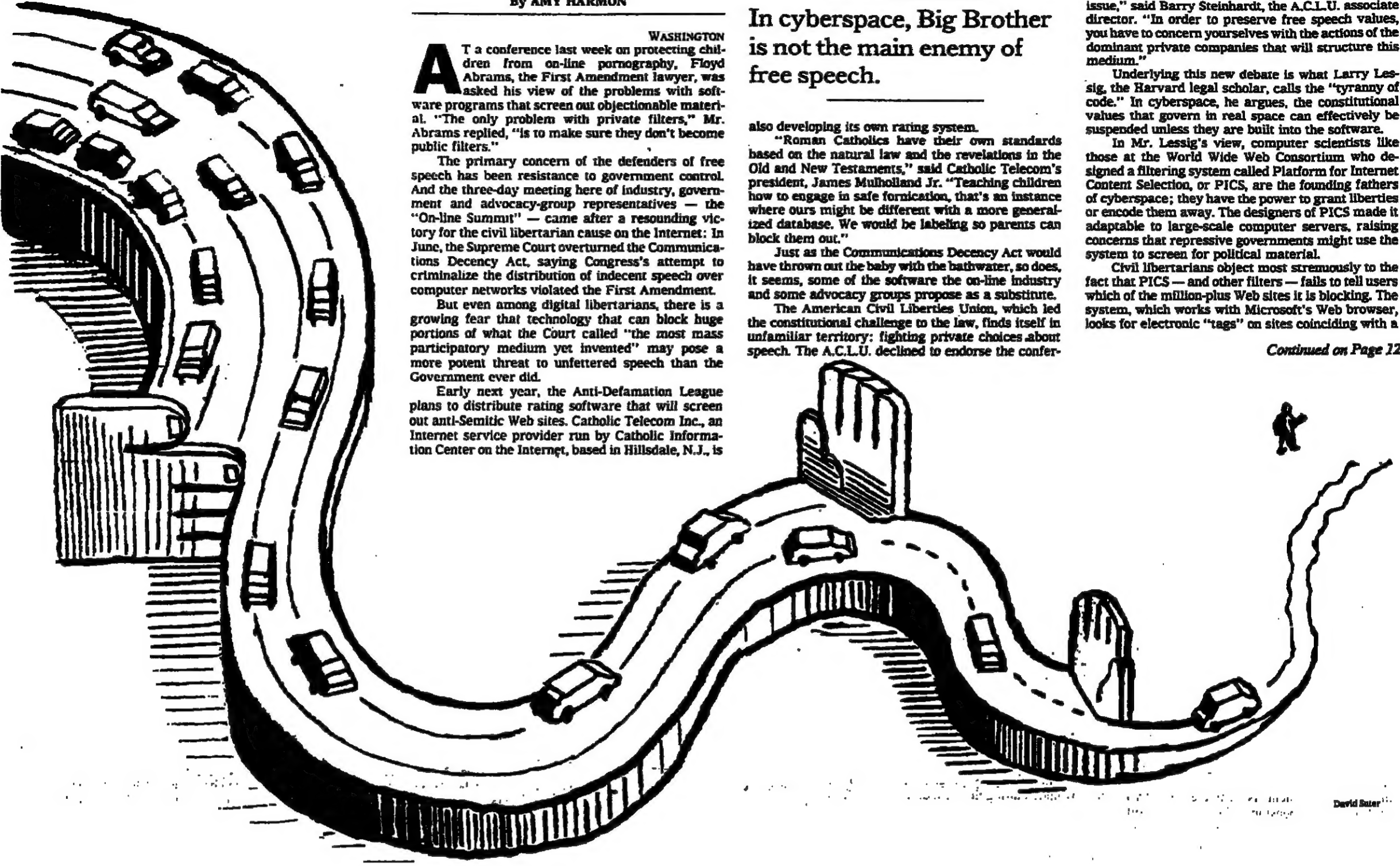
ence. "The Internet has changed the nature of the issue," said Barry Steinhardt, the A.C.L.U. associate director. "In order to preserve free speech values, you have to concern yourselves with the actions of the dominant private companies that will structure this medium."

Underlying this new debate is what Larry Lessig, the Harvard legal scholar, calls the "tyranny of code." In cyberspace, he argues, the constitutional values that govern in real space can effectively be suspended unless they are built into the software.

In Mr. Lessig's view, computer scientists like those at the World Wide Web Consortium who designed a filtering system called Platform for Internet Content Selection, or PICS, are the founding fathers of cyberspace; they have the power to grant liberties or encode them away. The designers of PICS made it adaptable to large-scale computer servers, raising concerns that repressive governments might use the system to screen for political material.

Civil libertarians object most strenuously to the fact that PICS — and other filters — fails to tell users which of the million-plus Web sites it is blocking. The system, which works with Microsoft's Web browser, looks for electronic "tags" on sites coinciding with a

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#### Backlash

### In Medicine, Government Rises Again

By PETER PASSELL

**H**ILLARY was right about health care. Well, not quite: Hardly anybody expects Congress to micro-manage medical services or to cap the maximum amount Americans are permitted to spend on insurance. But confidence that the health care system can solve its problems without a lot of help from Washington is rapidly evaporating.

As recently as a year or two ago, care regulated solely by the free market seemed the wave of the future, with feisty, profit-driven health maintenance organizations in the vanguard of the struggle to stamp out waste and remove medical specialists from the gravy train. Today, those H.M.O.'s are reporting falling earnings as they struggle with both angry consumers demanding better service and a medical establishment determined to resist any more cutbacks in fees.

So where to go from here? Surely not back to fee-for-service medicine fed by deep-pocketed insurance that was too expensive a decade ago — and would be even more expensive now. And surely not forward to Government insurance, with bureaucrats deciding who gets a hip replacement or a new treatment for Alzheimer's: Congress flatly rejected that option in the debate over the cumbersome plan from the task force that Mrs. Clinton directed.

"We're going through a period of soul-searching," said Robert D. Reischauer, who was head of the Congressional Budget Office during the Bush Administration, "one that will lead to a period of experimentation" with more Government intervention than the insurance industry wants and less than the center-left had hoped for.

Or, to put it another way: Hillary Lite.

The curtain is rising on a third act in a drama that opened in the 1980's, when most Americans were still enrolled in fee-for-service insurance plans through their employers. Health care costs were rising at a shocking five percentage points above the general rate of inflation — and, for obvious reasons. Since patients' co-payments and deductibles were generally small, and generous coverage was the norm, "medical services seemed almost free and providers were under little pressure to economize," said Mark Pauly of the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School of Business.

Act two began in 1990, with the recession and the first wave of corporate downsizing. With labor on the defensive, employers were able to contain rapidly escalating medical costs by forcing employees into "managed care" arrangements — in particular, into



Before managed care: a page from a history of medicine produced by Parke-Davis, the pharmaceutical company, a generation ago.

H.M.O.'s promising big savings. At first the H.M.O.'s delivered. Hard bargaining squeezed some fat out of the system, forcing hospitals to reduce costs by closing wings and holding the line on employment. Physicians, faced with the choice of lower fees or far fewer patients, reluctantly traded in their Mercedes-Benzes for Camrys.

#### Reality Check

Then, too, there was the Hillary Effect — the sobering impact of a year of debate over health care in which almost everyone acknowledged that business-as-usual was untenable. "I think providers really did become more reasonable," after the Clinton Admin-

istration went on the warpath in 1993, said Uwe Reinhardt, an economist at Princeton University.

The cost of insurance for large employers flattened, or even fell. And the average growth in medical outlays per person, which was 5.2 percentage points above the rate of inflation in the 1980's, was much lower — 3.4 percentage points higher than inflation — during the first half of the 1990's.

It's not that the fat is gone. "Two hospital beds in five are empty," Mr. Reischauer pointed out. "What industry in a competitive market could make a profit at 60 percent capacity?"

But the balance of bargaining power is shifting back toward providers. When just

one or two insurers controlled a large portion of a regional market, physicians had little choice but to accept whatever was offered. With more insurers competing, Mr. Reinhardt notes that doctors and hospitals in big cities may see patients from a dozen H.M.O.'s — and insurers can no longer dictate fees.

So in the last year or two, the H.M.O.'s have shifted from squeezing providers to denying consumers access to services deemed ineffective or unnecessary. And as a political matter, patients are becoming harder to push around. Sending new mothers home the day after giving birth, for example,

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#### A Newer New World Order

In the post-global era, it's every nation for itself.

By Elaine Sciolino

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#### The Little Picture

Another scandal sputters toward a non-conclusion.

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#### That's Progress

Humanity cries, 'Wait!' Science replies, 'What?'

By George Johnson

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# The World

## It Turns Out That All Global Politics Is Local

By ELAINE SCIOLINO

**W**HAT ever happened to global Kumbaya — the we-are-the-world cooperative spirit that seemed only yesterday to have replaced the cold war?

Look at the headlines of the last few weeks:

- Most of America's closest allies refused to consider military action to force Saddam Hussein to admit United Nations weapons inspectors back into Iraq.
- Congress refused to give President Clinton the authority to negotiate trade agreements with the rest of the world.
- Efforts to reduce global warming are mired in disagreements large and small at a big summit meeting in Japan.
- The United States, China and Russia, big producers of land mines, refused to join 120 other nations signing a treaty in Ottawa banning the deadliest of the devices.

It wasn't supposed to be this way. Early in the 1990's, dozens of countries joined the American-led military coalition to oust President Hussein's forces from Kuwait. The North American Free Trade Agreement and the enlargement of the world's trading system

For the 1990's, international cooperation is something of a grand illusion.

promised to topple trade barriers east and west, north and south. The United States and other developed nations set ambitious goals to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases at an environmental summit meeting in Brazil. And disarmament of all sorts was de rigueur.

But it turns out that all the New Age collegiality was fleeting, or maybe just overstated. It was an afterglow of the end of the cold war, not the light of the future. Appearances to the contrary, countries had not redefined self-interest to mean the greatest global good.

"The United States had won the cold war and was at the pinnacle of its power, so all the policies and preferences of the United States were translated into international politics," said Fareed Zakaria, managing editor of Foreign Affairs. "That was a momentary peak."

Which is not to say that there are not forces — trade and technology, for example — driving countries slowly but surely toward greater integration and cooperation. It is just that an interplay of old national interests and new centers of power has made the process much more complex and unpredictable.

Among the players beyond governmental control these days are nonprofit organizations armed not with weapons but with new technologies to pursue their agendas. The land-mine treaty, for example, might never have happened without an intensive campaign by private groups using high-speed, inexpensive global communications via the Internet and E-mail. And so the



United States and Russia, the powers pivotal to big weapons agreements of the recent past, were left on the sidelines.

### New Issues

The absence of global military tensions has given both countries and peoples a range of new issues to choose from in defining national security. Jessica Matthews, president of the Carnegie Endowment for Interna-

tional Peace, has written about the new search for "human security" emerging "from the conditions of daily life — food, shelter, employment, health, public safety — rather than flowing downward from a country's foreign relations and military strength."

Finally, when it comes to the pursuit of national self-interest, it's hard to ignore the world's pre-eminent power: Some of the erosion of global goodwill can be attributed to annoyance over the United States' penchant for domestically driven economic sanctions — against

Cuba and Iran, for example — and its refusal to compromise on smaller issues. If the United States had agreed to let a Frenchman head the southern command of NATO and had not tried to curb French investment in Iran, would France have been more amenable to military action against Iraq?

### 'Transgovernmentalism'

The dissipation of hopes for global amity has prompted an esoteric debate among academics and experts about what exactly is going on.

In a recent article in Foreign Affairs titled "The Real New World Order," Anne-Marie Slaughter, a Harvard law professor, argued that "liberal internationalism" — under which institutions like the United Nations kept the peace after the cold war — had been replaced by a "new medievalism," with the nation-state in permanent decline. But actually something called "transgovernmentalism" is becoming "the most widespread form of international governance," she wrote. By that she means not that the state is disappearing, but that government agencies, including courts, regulatory structures, even legislatures, are building global networks with their counterparts abroad.

Joseph S. Nye, dean of the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard, has launched a project called "Visions of Governance for the 21st Century." He has gone mathematical, offering a nine-cell matrix to describe the factors at work in governmental decisions today: national, subnational and supranational forces intersecting with the private sector, governments and nonprofit groups.

Despite all the messiness, the United States and the international community appear to have cooperated well in the new war against economic collapse — most recently with the current plan to bail out South Korea. They have marshaled their forces and taken swift, dramatic action to prevent instability.

"After the financial crisis in Mexico, there was talk about the principle of regional responsibility and leaving it to the United States," said Lawrence S. Summers, Deputy Secretary of the Treasury. "Now, with the Korean crisis, there is a general recognition of the principles of global responsibility."

Ultimately, the more than \$60 billion in loans to bail out South Korea will have to come from the world's taxpayers, so there is only so much patience for this sort of financial rescue.

There are other examples of New Age cooperation. NATO is drawing up plans that would keep NATO troops in Bosnia when their mandate runs out next June. And NATO's addition of three members from the former Warsaw Pact is proceeding better than expected.

"Obviously there are some things in which the international community is working in a collective fashion and some in which it is struggling," said Robert Zoellick, an Under Secretary of State during the Bush Administration. "It's not all or nothing."

Still, Mr. Zoellick, Mr. Zakaria and other foreign policy experts faulted the Clinton Administration for failing to develop long-term strategies for some of the world's thorniest problems, like Persian Gulf security. "It takes a lot of effort to maintain the world," said Mr. Zakaria. "But the Administration hasn't prioritized. You can't keep saying, 'I want your cooperation on everything.'"

### Lost in Translation

## South Africa's American Romance

By DONALD G. McNEIL Jr.

**N**EXT month, choirs from the mixed-race neighborhoods of Cape Town will put on the city's best-known annual event: the Coon Carnival. They will paint their faces black with big white lips, pop on straw boaters, pluck banjos and parade through the streets singing what they call "coon classics" like "Daar Kom die Alabama," a paean heralding the Confederate raider that defeated two Union warships off Cape Town in 1863.

And where did they get the idea? From American minstrel shows that toured here in the 1880's.

Do they care that the very name of the event horrifies Americans today? Not really. It's a South African tradition. Who are the Americans to butt in?

South Africans of all colors love American culture. But outside the doors of McDonald's franchises, they almost never get it right. Isolated by distance, decades of apartheid and varying levels of education, they know very little about American geography or history, so their versions of imports arrive as a strange grab bag that can be baffling, even jarring, to the Americans they mean to imitate.

Bits of Americana are ubiquitous. Stars-and-stripes bandanas hang from rear-view mirrors almost as often as pine tree air-fresheners do in New York City taxis. Chicago Bulls caps can be found on cricket fields and in Bushman villages. Rap D.J.'s on Soweto radio stations speak with accents straight out of Bed-Stuy, although consistency is not a strong point: some can slide into one sentence sounding like the Notorious B.I.G. and out like Cary Grant.

Tanya Accone, a former Fulbright scholar in Washington, remembers pretending to be American when she was a teen-age mall rat here. "I'd trill along in this fake accent, and people would just flock to me, wanting to talk," she said. "I told them I was from Huntington Beach."

### Mickey Mouse

As in many countries, American music, movies and television are everywhere. The culture arrives unadulterated, except for a few obscenities and "Gods" bleeped out under censorship lingering from South Africa's Calvinist past. But it's the local imitations of American life that startle, because of the peculiar gaffes. Relatively few South Africans visit the United States, and many who do head straight for Disney World. So America gets reinterpreted with the kind of tunnel

vision found inside a Mickey Mouse costume.

For example, every town with more than three paved streets has a Spurs Restaurant. The decor is Western, dominated by stained-glass murals of cattle drives and noble Indians. O.K., the \$10 steaks are served with "monkey gland" sauce (a Worcestershire-style condiment that, despite its name, contains no simian ingredient), but that's pardonable, since restaurateurs have to please local tastes. But walk in as an American, and one can't help but be struck by the thought: If this is a cowpoke steakhouse, why are the waiters wearing baseball uniforms? And what's the name of this place, anyway? Most of the Spurs have cowhide-tough handles like Apache Spur or Durango Spur, Laredo, Seven Eagles or Dakota. But there's also the New Orleans, the Potomac, the La Jolla and the Sausalito. Why? Because it doesn't matter. They're American.

The logo of Yankee Fast Foods is the

The sincerest but not the most accurate form of flattery.

Confederate stars and bars. The Moosehead, which pours Mexican Corona beer but not Canadian Moosehead, serves credible American regional cuisine, from buffalo wings to fried potato skins, but also makes a "Sioux Black Forest cherries jubilee" and "Maryland bouillabaisse." At the Walnut Grove, the "California breakfast" features orange juice and fried kippers. Franklin's Restaurant, which has paintings of the Continental Congress on the walls, used to have pictures of the Reagan and Bush cabinets. It serves gumbo and jambalaya.

What's the second-biggest gang in the mixed-race Cape Flats? The Americans. It has sub-gangs: the Young Americans, the Ugly Americans and the JFK's. They sport USA tattoos and learned their America in Rambo movies.

The connection actually goes back to the 1940's, when another gang called the Americans roamed Sophiatown, the black neighborhood in Johannesburg. The slang for a gang member — "tsotsi" — is thought to derive from "zoot suit."

What are the most popular American whiskeys? Jack Daniel's, Southern Comfort and something called Thomas Jefferson, which is bottled in Kentucky with a label explaining who Jefferson is. Cigarettes? Lo-



Discovering America at the San Pablo Spur Steak Ranch north of Johannesburg.

The cowpokes are wearing baseball uniforms, and the 'California breakfast' includes kippers.

cally made Chesterfields, a brand that all but died in the States 20 years ago. Other big brands are Peter Stuyvesant and John Rolfe. South Africans are surprised to learn that Americans not only don't smoke them, but that most can't identify Stuyvesant, the Governor of what was later New York, and Rolfe, America's first tobacco planter.

Older black South Africans seem surprised to learn that black children are no longer called "pickaninies" in America, as they occasionally are here, even by their mothers. At a soccer game, a white American and his Zulu-speaking companion asked a black fan if he knew what his flag stood for: it was the Stars and Bars with a disk in the middle reading "The South Will Rise Again." Explaining slavery and even the Ku Klux Klan made no impression. Finally, the Zulu speaker shouted: "It's an A.W.B. flag, man!" using the initials for the pseudo-Nazi Afrikaner Weerstand Beweging. The astonished fan thanked them and rolled it up.

How does this happen? Most South Africans know little American history, and don't associate some things Southern — Aunt Jemima, Br'er Rabbit, Simon Legree — with slavery. The Confederate flag is just a second American flag.

### Who's a Colonialist?

Will American and South African minds ever truly meet?

Robert Grieg, a culture writer who has lived in New England and Seattle, says he's noticed the beginnings of a black backlash among a few officials of the African National Congress who fear that the pervasiveness of American culture will pollute the "African Renaissance" much spoken about here these days.

"In post-colonial societies," he cautioned, "you get both an admiration for the colonial power — and a resentment."

But, an American protests, the United States never colonized South Africa.

"Oh, yes you did," he answers. "Cultural-

مكتبة القدس



# The Nation

## Looking for a Needle, Can't Find the Haystack

By DAVID JOHNSTON

**A**NOTHER serious political scandal seems to be putting sloppily to a close without anyone being held accountable, without anyone being exonerated and without any real prospect that anything will be done at all. Last week Attorney General Janet Reno rejected the appointment of an independent prosecutor to investigate President Clinton and Vice President Al Gore for their White House fund-raising calls, last month a Senate committee dropped its own campaign finance inquiry after weeks of inconclusive hearings. And outside the capital, many people tuned out and moved on.

Few investigative avenues remain open, at least theoretically. Ms. Reno said her decision did not end her inquiry. She promised to reconsider an independent counsel, but only if fresh evidence materializes. Her campaign finance team at the Justice Department remains on the job; although it has produced nothing after more than a year of probing, and in particular no evidence yet that any of the higher-ups actually committed a crime, law enforcement officials predict indictments of lesser figures soon. Then there is a House committee that plans to keep digging, although the panel is wracked by partisan divisions and its agenda seems at best hazily defined.

### A Fairly Clear Picture

Still, most of what happened in the campaign finance scandal of 1997 is by now authoritatively documented and reasonably clear: A frenzy of political fund-raising, spurred on by the President, swept the Clinton White House in 1995 and 1996. The fund-raising operation evolved into the worst campaign finance scandal since the days of Richard M. Nixon's Committee for the Re-election of the President. But neither the legal nor the political system has managed to do anything meaningful about it. And so another scandal peters out to an unsatisfying, inconclusive and uninformative finish.

The only casualties so far are the loose web of laws

and regulatory controls supposed to hold back the overwhelming influence of money in politics and the weak enforcement structure erected to make candidates play by the rules. That system lies in a ruined heap of ineffectiveness. Earlier this fall, a few Republicans and Democrats tried to tinker with the rules, but the effort was effortlessly squelched in Congress.

### Ineffective Tools

Even post-Watergate anticorruption measures like the independent counsel statute — intended to keep executive branch officials from being investigated by their political allies — proved to be useless tools for shedding light on what was more a political scandal than a clear-cut criminal conspiracy (although some law enforcement officials suggest that such a plot might yet be found).

Nor has the independent counsel law proved useful of late in holding anyone accountable: Ms. Reno's interpretation of the statute and the history of recent prosecutors appointed under it suggest that this reform, like the campaign finance laws, is woefully inadequate.

Ms. Reno's decision to reject an independent prosecutor seemed inevitable because she narrowed the issue to the legality of phone calls made by Mr. Clinton and Mr. Gore, a footnote-sized allegation far removed from the root of what happened. Ms. Reno has defended her decision by saying the law requires her to examine the campaign finance allegations piecemeal, not as a whole.

The Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Louis J. Freeh, broke with Ms. Reno on this point. He advised her in a memo that she should examine the allegations more broadly, saying the conflicts of interest were so great and the charges so numerous that only an independent prosecutor could credibly carry out the inquiry. But Ms. Reno dismissed his view.

Furious that Ms. Reno had rejected Mr. Freeh's advice, Republicans want the F.B.I. Director and the Attorney General to appear this week before a House committee. But the panel seems as eager to put a harsh partisan spotlight on the disagreement between the country's two top law enforcement officials as it is to root out campaign finance abuses.



Phone calls were small potatoes in the campaign-finance scandal, and they were what got investigated.

For her part, Ms. Reno took an issue-by-issue approach to the law from the start. By the time she excused the fund-raising phone calls, she had already found insufficient evidence to support such an appointment on a host of other campaign finance abuses. She found nothing in the grainy White House video tapes of the President buttering up big donors over Danish and coffee in the White House. Nor did she find anything worth an independent prosecutor in the awarding of overnight stays at the executive mansion to big donors, as if the Lincoln bedroom was a promotional premium like a coffee mug, tote bag or free junket to Las Vegas.

Of course, history shows that even if Ms. Reno had bent to Republican demands to seek an independent prosecutor, there would be no guarantee that the issues would be fully explored to the public's complete satisfaction. The experience of recent independent counsels suggests that they start aggressively in pursuit of high-level officials but wind up years later, after spending millions of dollars, prosecuting peripheral figures for trivial crimes — often for refusing to cooperate with the prosecutor's investigation of their political superiors. One constant: whichever party controls the executive branch complains that the inquiry is politically motivated.

Not one of the five independent prosecutors appointed since Ms. Reno has been Attorney General has convicted the main subjects of their inquiries, although Donald C. Smaltz, the independent prosecutor appointed

to investigate former Agriculture Secretary Mike Espy, has charged Mr. Espy with receiving gifts from companies regulated by the Agriculture Department. Mr. Espy has said he did not break the law and a trial is pending.

Then there is the six-year-long inquiry into the Iran-contra affair, the longest and costliest of them all. Frustrated by the resistance of principal witnesses and wearied by battles over classified documents, the independent counsel, Lawrence E. Walsh, slogged onward until being shut down in 1992 by President Bush's Christmas Eve pardon, which excused a half dozen officials in the case.

Mr. Walsh was forced to end his long and tangled inquiry without proving his central thesis: that President Reagan and his top advisers had plotted to cover up illegal arms shipments to Iran.

The Iran-contra affair was serious, but the charges that Mr. Walsh was ultimately able to bring raised the question of whether the legal process could unravel a complex political scandal. The prosecutions were at best only symbolic and seemed so peripheral that the serious issues were hopelessly obscured.

For example, trying Oliver L. North for accepting the gift of a \$13,800 home alarm system persuaded a jury that he had committed a crime (later overturned on appeal). But the case was so remote from central issues that the affair itself seemed almost to disappear — like the campaign finance case seems to be doing now.

### Health-Care Reform Redux

## A Tax Overhaul Looks Good, From Afar

By DAVID E. ROSENBAUM

**T**AX reform may prove to be for Republicans what health care reform was for Democrats — a seemingly popular idea that turned into a political disaster.

In the case of health care, a 1991 Gallup Poll showed that 85 percent of Americans believed that the system needed reforming. Bill Clinton seized on this mood and made health care reform a centerpiece of his 1992 election campaign. Good medical insurance, he declared, was a right, not a privilege. He promised to make it affordable to everyone.

But the monumental plan President Clinton offered after he was elected was carefully picked apart by interest groups like insurance companies, doctors and small businesses. The Republican minority in Congress opposed the President at every turn. Many people became scared that they might lose the ability to choose their own doctors or get treatment when they need it.

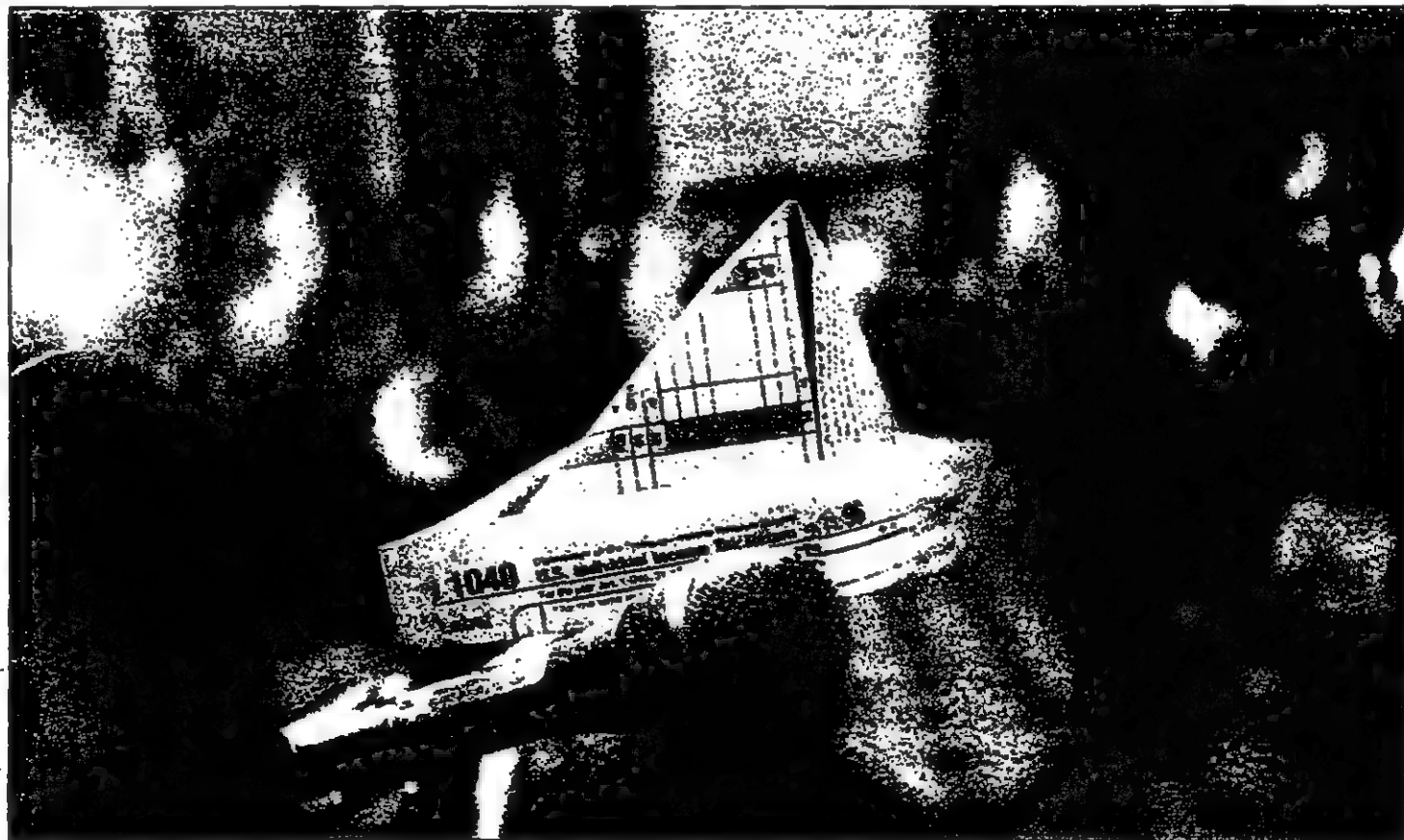
Ultimately, most voters and politicians decided that changes would be worse than sticking with the old health care system, flaws and all. Mr. Clinton's plan died in 1994. It was the most serious political defeat of his Presidency, and contributed no doubt to the Republicans' victory in the Congressional elections that year.

### Déjà Vu

The Republican drive for replacing the Federal income tax is taking shape in a similar fashion.

The latest Gallup Poll found that 73 percent of Americans believe that the tax system needs major changes or a complete overhaul. Republican lawmakers are stumping the country under the banner of "scrap the code." Party leaders believe they can make hay over Democratic opposition to tax reform and ride the issue to victory in the Congressional elections next year and the Presidential election in 2000.

But here's the rub: When they scrutinize the details of what the Republicans are proposing, people may find, as they did with the Democrats' health care plan, that they would



What's under that hat? Representative Dick Armey folded up a 1040 form when he kicked off his tax reform drive this fall.

be worse off than they are now.

President Clinton said in an interview last week that he might suggest some tax measures himself next year. But he is not likely to side with Republicans and favor completely revamping the system. Two main Republican plans are being discussed.

One, drafted by Representative Dick Armey of Texas, the majority leader, would impose a single flat tax of 20 percent for two years and 17 percent thereafter on both individual and business income and abolish almost all deductions and exemptions. The other, promoted by Representative W.J. (Billy) Tauzin of Louisiana, would replace

the income tax with a national sales tax of 15 percent on almost all goods and services.

Both plans have provisions meant to insulate the poor. Mr. Armey would increase the personal exemption so that a family of four with annual income below \$33,800 would owe no taxes. Mr. Tauzin would give periodic tax rebates to the poor. But both would repeal the earned-income tax credit, which provides cash to low-income workers.

Republicans say they hope to avoid the pitfalls of the health care experience by proceeding more cautiously than President Clinton did. Representative Bill Archer of Texas, the chairman of the Ways and Means

Committee, met last week with Mr. Clinton about taxes. The upshot seemed to be that nothing more than tinkering with the tax law is likely next year.

Certainly no one expects votes next year on rewriting the tax code. Mr. Archer says that without a bipartisan approach, full-scale tax reform is out of the question until a Republican is elected President. But that will not stop the Republicans from talking about tax reform next year.

Many powerful interest groups are gearing up to fight the Republican plans with the money and fervor that was used in the health care battle.

The Health Insurance Institute of America — the organization that sponsored the Harry-and-Louise television commercials that worked so effectively against the Clinton health plan — is already maintaining that because neither Republican tax plan would allow businesses to deduct the cost of insurance premiums for their employees, the number of people without medical insurance would explode.

The real estate industry holds that the price of houses would rise enormously without the mortgage interest deduction. Many companies say they would go out of business if they could not write off the depreciation cost of expensive machinery and equipment already in their factories.

### Math Problems

As if that were not enough, simple arithmetic shows that middle-class families would almost certainly pay higher taxes under the Republican plans than they do now. If the rich pay less in taxes, as they certainly would with a sales tax or an income tax rate cut, someone has to make up the difference if total Government revenues remain approximately the same. The Treasury has calculated, for instance, that a flat tax raising as much money as the existing tax system would require a 20.8 percent rate and that essentially all families with annual incomes below \$200,000 would face more taxes.

Mr. Armey and Mr. Tauzin dispute such calculations. The skeptics, they say, do not take account of the lower interest rates and economic expansion that would result from their plans.

But that is theory, not fact. The Republicans might have trouble selling their ideas to voters just as Mr. Clinton could never convince people that they would be better off with his health program.

Here's why. In Mr. Clinton's case, while millions of Americans lack adequate health insurance, the vast majority of people are in fact covered. The comparable problem for Republicans on taxes is that while millions of taxpayers are frustrated by high rates and complicated rules on deductions, about two-thirds of Americans either owe no taxes or take the standard deduction and are taxed at a 15 percent rate.

## In Medicine, the Government Will Rise Again

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didn't win the H.M.O.'s many friends.

But more fundamental economic forces have also been at work. When employees worried they would lose health insurance of any sort, it was relatively easy to channel them into restrictive H.M.O.'s. But "now that they no longer fear for their jobs," Mr. Pauly said, they balk at running bureaucratic gauntlets to see specialists and "employers are again using generous benefits to attract and keep employees."

Insurers are responding to the backlash by offering less restrictive coverage. Employers are trying to pass on costs by requiring hefty co-payments — typically 30 percent — for the unquestioned right to see physicians outside designated provider panels. And in response to a combination of public pressure and intense lobbying by providers, government is making its weight felt.

Many states are regulating everything from the length of a hospital stay for a mastectomy to the financial incentives that H.M.O.'s give to physicians for denying treatment. And Congress is flooded with similar ad hoc proposals from both sides of the aisle — including one from that stalwart of Republicanism, Senator Alfonse M. D'Amato of New York.

Ironically, the regulatory initiative least likely to offend the sensibilities of free marketers is coming from the folks who brought you the Clinton plan. While the "consumer bill of rights" for health care just proposed by the Administration has a little something for everyone, its focus is on insuring adequate information for consumers, along with effective competition among insurers and providers. "Anyone should be able to compare plan benefits or physicians' credentials by logging on to the Internet," Mr. Reinhardt said.

This "make the market work" approach to reform

— which, parenthetically, has its origins in the trust-busting crusade of the very Republican President Teddy Roosevelt — is not likely to please private insurers. But Mr. Reischauer predicts their opposition will soften since "they don't want to deal with regulators in 50 different states."

It's too early to say how the politics and economics of health care regulation will play out in detail. But a few things are clear.

### Progress Costs

Explaining the lion's share of growth in health care outlays per person, Joseph Newhouse, an economist at Harvard, notes that "medical technology has traditionally advanced in costly ways." Hence any regulation that trimmed a percentage point or two off the annual growth of medical bills would have to slow innovation — or

channel it in cost-saving directions like outpatient care.

By the same token, the idea that for-profit care is at least as good as nonprofit, and that insured patients have no obligation to subsidize the uninsured poor are likely to come under intense scrutiny. "Are we really prepared to cede authority over who gets what treatment to private agents?" said Henry Aaron, a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution.

Change, Mr. Reischauer predicts, will come as "three steps forward and two steps back." But he suggests that we may be overestimating the difficulty of coming to terms with systems that ration medical services through a combination of cold cost-benefit calculations and consumers' willingness to pay.

"The real challenge is coming from people who grew up with unlimited fee-for-service insurance," he contends. "Younger Americans are ready to accept managed care."



## Ideas & Trends

# Ethical Fears Aside, Science Plunges On

By GEORGE JOHNSON

**W**ITH the prospect of human cloning becoming less unthinkable by the day, it seems almost quaint that a mere decade ago people were up in arms over the perils of spraying strawberries with bacteria genetically altered to prevent frost.

At about the same time, a Montana scientist, hounded by cries that he was tampering with nature, tearfully chopped down a grove of trees he had carefully injected with bacteria whose genes had been rejiggered to fight Dutch elm disease. For all the outrage and apprehensions, one would have thought he was playing with something as dangerous as the Andromeda Strain.

Gene-splicing, artificial insemination, in

tions, scientists had shown that it was possible to take a cell from an adult mammal and use it as the seed for a new creature. But one scientist after another vowed that cloning would never be done with people. Finally, it seemed, science would not try to do something just because it could.

In the midst of the panic, President Clinton called an obscure group known as the National Bioethics Advisory Commission into action. Moralizing under the pressure of a Presidential imposed 90-day deadline, the panel gravely concluded that human cloning was wrong and called for a moratorium. Mr. Clinton, armed with the latest in family-value issues, declared that the practice would violate "the sacred family bonds at the very core of our ideals and our society" and "make our children objects rather than cherished individuals."

### Monkey See, Human Do

Bills were debated in Congress, professional ethicists convened conferences and wrote books and articles. California banned human cloning. Meanwhile, the real action was quietly going on in the laboratories, outside the periphery of the public eye. Federally supported experiments in cloning monkeys for use in AIDS vaccine and other research was continuing outside the limelight. What can be done with monkeys can probably be done with people. "We are laying the groundwork," one of the scientists said.

Dr. Steen Willadsen, who developed techniques used to make Dolly, said it was "just a matter of time" before the first human is cloned. Anticipating that cloning will inevitably become an accepted medical procedure, he is now working in a fertility clinic, perfecting techniques that could eventually be used for the ultimate in reproductive freedom — making a younger copy of yourself.

It's the same old story. The terror of Jurassic Park dinosaurs on the loose in San Diego or the eerie absurdity of cloning multiple Hitlers in "The Boys From Brazil" gives way to practical questions. Infertile couples wonder whether cloning one of their cells to make a baby is really any more unnatural than taking fertility drugs and ending up with septuplets.

Could it be that cloning a cancer victim to

harvest a bone marrow donor is less an abomination than an act of human charity? If the evolutionary psychologists can be believed, such a clone, sharing an identical set of genes, would feel closer to brother to sister or parent to child. One might very well want to help the other with an organ donation. The notion of genetically engineered slaves kept in a closet for spare parts starts to seem like bad science fiction.

### Ethical Concerns

No one should be Pollyannish about this. Before human cloning becomes as acceptable as implanting frozen embryos, all kinds of moral and legal dilemmas would have to be dealt with. Should we worry about the undue pressures a clone might feel to give up a body part? Would knowing that you were conceived for utilitarian purposes be psychologically upsetting? Or would it be no worse than learning you were an accident, or adopted, or conceived in a petri dish? If history is a guide, the answers to these questions will

come only after cloning is a fait accompli.

Over time, all the dire warnings and predictions seem to have the opposite of the intended effect. People become inured to the predictable hand-wringing and begin to feel that every new development is accompanied by an obligatory round of chilling scenarios, which often turn out to be wrong. Each new pill, for better or worse, is just a little bit easier to swallow. One wonders whether in 10 years, or in 5 or 3, the outrage over cloning will seem as misguided as medieval bans on dissecting cadavers in medical schools. What was the big deal, anyway?

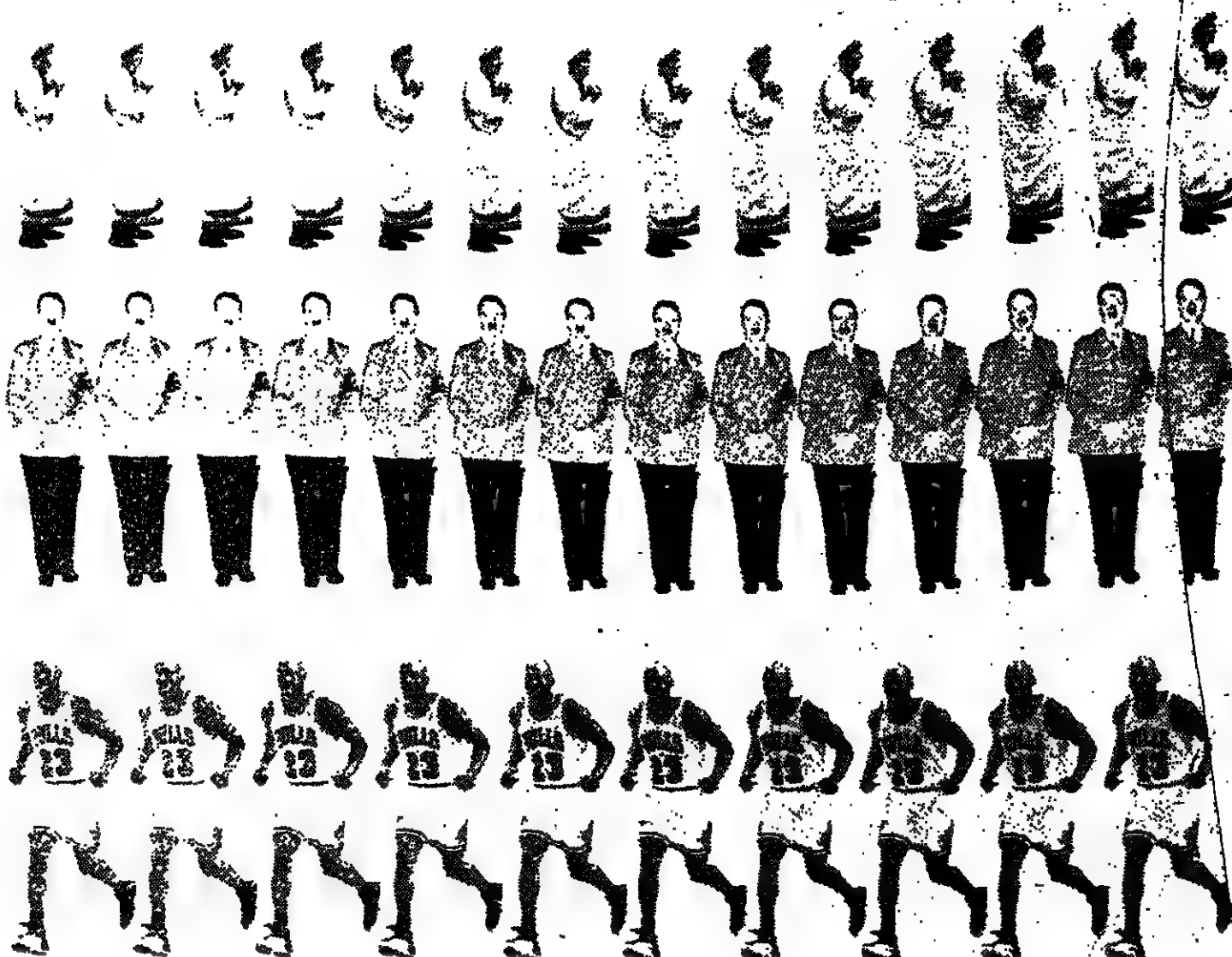
With each new development the labyrinth of possibilities expands. New channels of thought open up. Trying to recreate an old moral mindset becomes as difficult as imagining why Beethoven at first sounded shocking, or remembering why mood rings and pet rocks once seemed cool.

It's almost as though society wants its scientists to spring these surprises on them. And people know deep down that, like it or not, what can be done probably will. From

the time the first caveman, obsessed with the image of a circle, picked up a chisel and turned a block of stone into a wheel, ideas — good ones and bad — have had a way of breaking loose from the mind. Thought inevitably crystallizes into action, ideas into things, and even notions that seem frighteningly dangerous have to be tried at least once before they are accepted, regulated or, occasionally, banned.

Some of the scientists of the Manhattan Project, working on the first hydrogen bomb, worried that it might set off a global chain reaction and turn the earth into a burning star. After a round of marathon calculations convinced them that this probably wouldn't happen, they crossed their fingers and exploded the bomb anyway. Then the world was left to deal with the mess.

"When you see something that is technically sweet you go ahead and do it," the physicist Robert Oppenheimer said later, "and you argue about what to do about it only after you have had your technical success."



The unthinkable invariably becomes inevitable.

vitro fertilization, bovine growth hormone, genetically engineered tomatoes — all jolted people to dig out their yellowed copies of Aldous Huxley and Michael Crichton and tremble before the certainty that the worst was yet to come. Genies were being let out of bottles. Brave new worlds were approaching.

And in the end, all the bioethical agonizing was largely beside the point. The scientists kept quietly, deliberately working away, incrementally improving the technology. What seemed scary to people slowly started to seem interesting, and maybe useful. Looking back over the years, it's hard to find a case in which the unthinkable remained unthinkable for very long.

Earlier this year, with the sudden appearance of Dolly, the genetically duplicated lamb, it seemed that science had finally come up against an unbreachable moral barrier. Against many of their own expecta-

## Cyberspace's Private Cops

Continued from Page 9

specific search. But the user sees only the matches. Companies like CyberPatrol and NetNanny develop lists of what is acceptable for children to see using a combination of automated searches for keywords and human value judgment. Some parents might disagree with those choices, if they knew what was excluded.

Since the Web is so big, with hundreds of sites added daily, much of the material is blocked simply because software monitors have not had time to review it. And since small, non-commercial sites are likely to be rated last, filter tools dramatically undercut the Internet's much-touted freedom, critics say.

The same problem affects self-rating. Under a plan promoted by the Recreational Software Advisory Council, sites rate themselves on a scale of 0 to 4 based on violence, language, sex and nudity. But only 50,000 sites have rated themselves so far; the vast majority of the Web could be screened out.

The A.C.L.U. is loath to oppose parents from choosing their own filtering software at home. But battles are emerging at libraries and schools. Many employers have also adopted filters for screening explicit material as well as categories like "life style."

And there is also a fear that the Internet's main gatekeepers — including America Online, Netscape and Microsoft — will offer only a few filters, which many parents will automatically use.

### A Blander Web

That could make for a much blander Web. James Boyle, a professor at American University's Washington College of Law, conjures the notion of a Disneyesque rating system that screens children from anything controversial. "No content provider will want to lose the portion of the population that always runs the Disney filter, even if they suspect that some of its users don't know the filter was ever turned on, and might not know how to turn it off if they did," Mr. Boyle told the Internet Legal Practice Newsletter, an on-line publication.

Theoretically, PICS allows users to construct their own rating system. But the time and expense it takes makes that unlikely. And even if surfers came up with ratings plans, some civil libertarians worry that the technology's unprecedented ability to screen for narrow stripes of unwelcome speech has troubling implications for a democracy based on the free exchange of ideas.

In real space, skinheads demonstrate in public; gay pride groups march on city streets and The National Review sits next to The Nation on the newsstand. In virtual space, the freedom to speak may not imply the same ability to be heard. And while true freedom of the press may always have belonged to those who owned one, the widespread adoption of high-tech blenders seems a particularly ironic outcome in a medium that for the first time gave that freedom to average citizens.

But Jerry Berman, executive director of the Center for Democracy and Technology, argues that such devices are simply a natural translation of real-world filters into cyberspace and serve the added purpose of deflecting more onerous government regulation.

Such filters may well flourish — with or without legislation — leaving Americans to decide for themselves how and whether the principles of free speech as guaranteed by the Constitution ought to apply in the free electronic market.

"The question we're asking now is not, 'Is this Constitutional?'" said David Sobel, an attorney with the Electronic Privacy Information Center, another civil liberties organization. "It's, 'Is this a good idea?'"

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ECONOMY

# Will Moscow's Gains Prove a Loss For Shareholders?

By EDWARD WYATT

**L**ENIN must be spinning in his tomb. The city of Moscow, once the capital of global Communism, could soon be the parent of an American mutual fund.

And no ordinary mutual fund, at that. Lexington Troika Dialog Russia has been, for much of this year, the best performer among all mutual funds in the United States. Before Russian stocks caught the contagion that swept from Asia to other emerging markets in October, the fund had gained more than 130 percent in 1997.

It has not fared as well lately, however, with the market turmoil of the last two months slashing the fund's value by more than a third. So although Lexington Troika remains up 60 percent since Jan. 1, most shareholders have lost money because they bought their shares after the fund had run up those huge gains.

The turmoil extends to Troika Dialog Asset Management, part of the Moscow-based brokerage firm that co-manages the fund's portfolio with the Lexington Management Corporation, a New Jersey-based mutual fund company. Troika Dialog is to be sold early next year to the Bank of Moscow, whose majority owner is the municipal government of Russia's capital city. Shareholders of the Lexington Troika fund are scheduled to vote on one aspect of the transaction on Dec. 19.

Why should investors care? The city is in the midst of privatizing hundreds of municipally owned enterprises. And while such deals in Russia have been marked by almost unfettered cronyism, the American regulators who oversee Lexington Troika can be expected to take a harsh stance on investments by the fund that are done at anything less than arm's length. If Russia's markets are the wild, wild West, the Securities and Exchange Commission can play the tough sheriff, even from afar.

And then there are the unanswered questions about the future involvement of the fund's founder, Peter Derby, a Jamaica, Queens, native who over the last seven years built Troika Dialog into Russia's biggest brokerage firm. He will not disclose what he is getting from the Bank of Moscow for selling, and he is noncommittal when asked what his continuing relationship with Troika Dialog and the fund will be.

But it is hard to see how the fund's shareholders can win. To the extent that Mr. Derby distances himself from the fund, they lose the benefits of his investing prowess, including the contacts that have helped the fund to make timely investments. To the extent that he remains involved, his motives will be different: As one of Russia's premier merchant bankers, he will profit by promoting in-



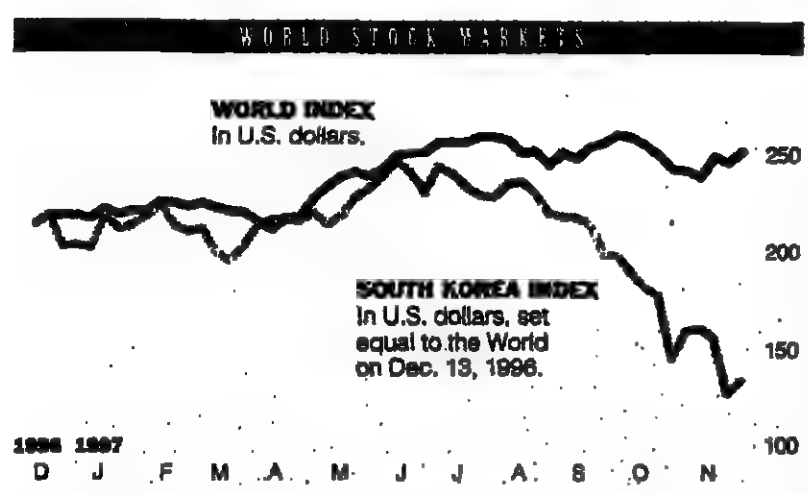
Gavin Rankin, left, does the stock-picking for the Lexington Troika Dialog Russia fund, while Richard Hisey, right, oversees broad strategy.

vestments to the fund rather than in making the fund perform well for shareholders.

For investors who bought shares of the Lexington Troika fund early, 1997 has been a vastly successful year. But for the majority of shareholders, the recent upheaval offers a cautionary tale about the hazards of investing in emerging markets.

Recent sharp drops in stock markets in Asia, South America and Eastern Europe prove that the strategy of spreading assets across the globe, in the hope that sovereign markets will act independently, remains a theory at best. And despite a global communications revolution that can instantly link an investor in Iowa with an executive in Irkutsk, there remain vast differences in securities regulations, accounting methods and the simple realities of doing honest business between West and East — differences that make investing in emerging markets far more risky than some mutual fund companies would have investors believe.

These issues get raised in emerging markets all the time," said Julie Allecta, a specialist in mutual fund law at the San Francisco firm of Paul, Hastings, Janofsky & Walker who was formerly a lawyer at the S.E.C. "But they seem to exist in Russia to an inordinate degree."



Prepared by Goldman, Sachs & Co. using data derived from the Financial Times/Standard & Poor's Actuaries World Indexes, a measure of stock market performance. The FT Indexes are compiled jointly by The Financial Times Limited, Goldman, Sachs & Co. and Standard & Poor's, in conjunction with the Institute of Actuaries and Faculty of Actuaries.

Country	IN U.S. DOLLARS					IN LOCAL CURR.				
	Index	Week % Chg.	Rank	YTD % Chg.	YTD Rank	Index	Week % Chg.	Rank	YTD % Chg.	YTD Rank
Australia	200.16	1.9	19	-9.8	19	3.80	195.39	5.8		
Austria	189.95	4.6	5	0	18	1.93	175.99	15.8		
Belgium	257.03	3.2	12	12.9	15	2.96	232.96	30.6		
Brazil	235.78	6.6	2	24.3	5	1.55	481.78	32.8		
Britain	334.23	4.1	8	18.0	12	3.30	299.10	21.9		
Canada	214.66	3.7	10	13.1	14	1.79	221.08	17.3		
Denmark	432.33	4.0	9	22.8	7	1.28	398.18	41.4		
Finland	295.04	-0.8	24	20.1	11	1.88	333.72	40.5		
France	234.27	1.1	21	9.4	17	2.43	219.23	25.6		
Germany	228.56	4.3	7	20.3	10	1.39	211.86	39.2		
Hong Kong	385.20	9.1	1	-24	23	4.18	382.63	-24.0		
Indonesia	93.98	-3.4	28	-58.8	26	2.91	231.76	-29.9		
Ireland	400.70	5.8	4	21.9	9	2.56	386.87	41.3		
Italy	111.31	1.9	18	33.3	3	1.68	145.14	53.1		
Japan	99.38	-3.0	26	-23.0	22	0.97	81.74	-13.7		
Malaysia	180.53	1.6	20	-70.1	27	2.80	260.38	-55.8		
Mexico	1,728.11	4.3	6	41.5	1	1.58	15,365.90	46.4		
Netherlands	412.29	3.0	14	22.5	8	2.22	378.04	42.4		
New Zealand	82.40	2.5	17	-10.2	20	4.24	72.84	5.6		
Norway	327.56	1.1	22	10.8	16	1.90	321.08	25.3		
Philippines	89.25	6.5	3	-56.2	25	1.32	156.47	-41.4		
Singapore	257.56	3.7	11	-38.7	24	1.67	191.87	-29.1		
South Africa	262.37	-3.2	27	-17.6	21	3.11	279.59	-14.1		
Spain	272.43	3.0	15	23.9	6	2.18	310.65	43.4		
Sweden	485.17	0.1	23	15.0	13	1.84	562.33	31.9		
Switzerland	332.07	2.8	16	39.2	2	1.13	296.37	49.2		
Thailand	24.24	-3.0	25	-74.7	28	7.23	39.26	-58.8		
United States	401.22	3.1	13	32.9	4	1.54	401.22	32.9		

COMPOSITE INDICES				
Europe	288.19	3.1	20.3	2.37
Pacific Basin	110.97	-1.3	-25.4	1.62
Europe/Pacific	184.89	1.6	-0.9	2.11
World	257.03	2.4	14.6	1.81

Source: Goldman, Sachs & Co. Exchange rates as of Friday's London close. © 1997 The Financial Times Ltd., Goldman, Sachs & Co. and Standard & Poor's.

EXCHANGE RATES				
Exchange rate	Friday	Last Friday	Week % Chg.	Year Ago
Japanese yen to the U.S. dollar	130.20	127.82	+1.86	112.97
German marks to the U.S. dollar	1.7830	1.7645	+1.04	1.5475
Canadian dollars to the U.S. dollar	1.4238	1.4229	+0.06	1.3592
U.S. dollars to the British pound	1.6573	1.6886	-1.85	1.6468

Source: Bloomberg Financial Markets, exchange rates as of Friday's New York close

few entrepreneurs, if any, have been more successful in negotiating a path through Russia's fledgling securities business than Mr. Derby, 37, who moved to Moscow in 1990. He has since created a one-man financial conglomerate comprising Dialog Bank, a commercial bank; the Development and Restructuring Bank, a merchant bank; a related insurance company; Troika Dialog, the brokerage and investment banking firm, and its subsidiary that is co-manager of the fund.

Yet some participants in the close-knit Moscow brokerage community are still shaking their heads in wonder at Mr. Derby's decision in July to sell a portion of Troika Dialog — which, given the explosion of underwriting business in Russia, is one of his most attractive businesses. Last week, at a Russian investment conference in New York, several expressed surprise when informed of Mr. Derby's sale of the remainder of Troika Dialog in the pending deal, which was disclosed only when the Lexington Troika fund filed a proxy statement in the United States last month.

And to these rivals, his decision to choose the Bank of Moscow over a foreign partner — even as some of Troika Dialog's competitors were forging links with rich Western investment banks — is the deal's most curious aspect.

In its recent ranking of the top 100 banks in Russia, the Moscow-based publication Russia Review ranks the Bank of Moscow the country's 12th-largest bank in total assets. But in terms of available capital, it ranks 32d. In a separate creditworthiness ranking by IC Rating, a Russian bank research firm, the Bank of Moscow sits squarely in the middle of the pack.

The bank does have one promising asset, however — its link with the City of Moscow, a municipality that is essentially the realm of one man, Mayor Yuri Luzhkov. Executives in the Russian securities industry say a relationship with the Mayor is as

important to generating business as any link with a foreign partner.

One executive, who spoke on condition of anonymity because of his desire to continue to do business with the city, likened Mr. Luzhkov's influence to the power once wielded by Chicago's legendary Mayor Richard J. Daley. "Like Daley, Luzhkov has got his fingers in a lot of pies," the executive said.

THE Mayor was traveling last week and could not be reached for comment on his ties to the Bank of Moscow and whether he would have any involvement with Troika Dialog. But Mr. Derby said of Mr. Luzhkov: "Troika Dialog's honesty and integrity are its main assets, as he sees it. He wants to make sure the firm grows properly."

Moscow's Mayor is not likely to be picking stocks for the Lexington Troika fund. But the fund's managers clearly hope to benefit from its new ties. "The bank's relationship with the City of Moscow places Troika Dialog in an excellent investment banking position for the companies yet to be privatized by the City of Moscow," states the Lexington Troika fund's latest proxy statement.

"That's troublesome," Ms. Allecta said. "They seem to be saying they have access to inside information, that they can manipulate the market because they can control the timing of certain entities being privatized."

Richard Hisey, a managing director at Lexington Management, the Saddle Brook, N.J., firm that markets Lexington Troika to American investors, said that the fund was comfortable that it would remain in compliance with the Investment Company Act of 1940, the governing statute for the mutual fund industry.

"The fire walls have been set up" to protect against conflicts of interest, he said.

Bruce Bean, a lawyer in the Moscow office of the Coudert Brothers law firm who has monitored events surrounding the fund, said investors should be protected by virtue of the fund's operation under S.E.C. oversight. "Russian law and regulation in this area is clearly underdeveloped," he said. "But American mutual fund law is overdeveloped."

But investors cannot count on the fund's stellar performance surviving a management shake-up.

As chairman of Troika Dialog, Mr. Derby had substantial input into the firm's management of the Lexington Troika fund. So shareholders are bound to wonder if, after the sale, the fund's manager will lose much of the expertise that helped it to rack up big gains this year.

For most of the fund's 18-month existence, Mr. Derby said, he has provided big-picture investment ideas but left the stock-picking to a team led by Gavin Rankin, the Moscow-based head of research for Troika Dialog. Meanwhile, the fund's broad strategy has been overseen by Mr. Hisey, who works for Lexington in the United States. The two companies split equally the fund's management fee of 1.25 percent.

But Mr. Derby acknowledged that he often took a more direct role. "I built this firm from scratch," he said. He continues to refer to the Troika Dialog companies as "my children." And at times, he said, he stepped in to personally supervise the fund's investments.

"When there were certain excesses in the market — huge vol-

umes, high volatility or questions of a political nature that affected the fund — I had the dominant say," he said. "The alliance with the Bank of Moscow, going forward, will change that."

But not entirely. "Of course, I will continue to maintain relationships with the management and individuals at Troika Dialog, and we will continue to work together when it's prudent to do so," Mr. Derby said. "I think we can go in with Troika Dialog on some of our transactions since we have this personal relationship."

**Y**ET if the cord is not being fully severed between Troika Dialog and its founding father, shareholders in the Lexington Troika fund may want to know how Mr. Derby's interests will compete with their own. For answers, investors in Lexington Troika, like shareholders of all funds, will have to rely on the managers and independent directors — most of whom are based in the United States.

S.E.C. officials look closely at potential conflicts of interest, especially when they occur in foreign markets. In its oversight of funds that invest heavily in developing markets like Russia, "we ask funds to consider and describe any problems that might be material from the perspective of investors," said Barry Bush, director of the S.E.C.'s mutual fund division.

In Lexington Troika's case, that results in several eye-numbing pages of the fund's prospectus, devoted to warnings about the possible negative effects of adverse political or diplomatic developments, social instability, expropriation or nationalization of assets, armed conflict in Chechnya, tensions between the President and the legislature, unrest caused by military downsizing, inexperience of corporate managers, lack of modern technology, lack of capital, high inflation, high taxes, dependence on foreign economic aid, and stock market speculation — among other conditions.

The danger, regulators acknowledge, is that the disclosures are so overburdened with descriptions of possible negative outcomes as to make all the warnings seem irrelevant.

Of course, the biggest concern of the fund's shareholders may be the losses most are now stringing on.

Numbers supplied by AMG Data Services, an Arcata, Calif., company that tracks the flow of cash in and out of mutual funds, show that two-thirds of the new investment into Lexington Troika this year came in the third quarter, after the fund's value had soared 78 percent in the first six months.

In doubling the fund's assets in a matter of weeks, those new investors bought their shares at prices in the low-to-mid-\$20's. Last week, though, the fund's net asset value fell below \$17 for the first time since early May, before rebounding to about \$18.

Another measure of the fund's re-

cent problems: Despite its shining performance in the first half, Lexington Troika this year has lost about \$15 million in investors' money, according to AMG Data's numbers through the end of November — and \$1 out of every \$3 invested since the end of June.

**T**O be sure, some of the fund's sharp gains and subsequent losses were results of frenzied activity in the overall Russian stock market and had little to do with specific stock selections by the fund's managers.

Nevertheless, the fund's portfolio poses substantial risks of its managers' making.

At the end of June, the date of the last semiannual disclosure of the fund's entire portfolio, 13 percent of Lexington Troika's assets were in "illiquid securities," defined in the prospectus as those that cannot be sold within seven days "without taking a materially reduced price." Included among those were the fund's second-largest holding at the end of June: six million shares of Sibneft, an oil and gas company, which represented 4.2 percent of the fund's assets and 6 percent of its equity holdings. In the Russian market, analysts say, shares of all but the largest of formerly state-owned companies can be hard to trade in volatile markets.

Last week, Mr. Hisey said that the percentage of the fund's assets in illiquid securities was still about the same, adding that those stocks had taken "a haircut along with the other holdings in the fund's portfolio."

Mr. Rankin, the Troika Dialog research director, noted that during the late October crash in the Russian market, it became essentially impossible to trade those illiquid securities.

"You had what always happens when there's a crash: the focus was on liquid names, and on the illiquid ones there was really very little trading done," he said. "Many investors who spent a considerable amount of time to build up those positions in second- and third-tier stocks were reluctant to fire-sale them."

How does a mutual fund value its holdings of rarely traded Russian stocks that no one wants to buy? That question, too, troubled the S.E.C. when Lexington Troika first asked for permission to sell its shares, said Mr. Bean, the Moscow lawyer.

To gain approval, the fund agreed to keep about 15 percent of its assets in "very liquid assets" like United States Treasury issues, according to the prospectus, so that it could meet redemptions in the event of large shareholder withdrawals. Indeed, Mr. Hisey said that since the October market decline, the fund's cash position had climbed even higher, to about 30 percent of assets.

That means that the fund sold some of its more liquid stocks while continuing to hold most of its illiquid ones, he said.

## Glasnost Success

Peter Derby said it was a 1987 trip to Russia in the entourage of Billy Joel, the pop singer, that opened his eyes to the opportunities there.

"I saw a lot of young people who looked just like the audiences at Madison Square Garden," said Mr. Derby, who served as a translator during Mr. Joel's historic concert tour. "At the time, Gorbachev was talking about glasnost, telling young people to go out there and have a life."



Marlynn K. Yee/The New York Times

In developing his securities business, Mr. Derby said, "I wanted to be there to provide legitimate answers for them."

In the process, he undoubtedly has made himself very wealthy, though he won't disclose details of his finances.

His firm, Troika Dialog, has been the top trader among all brokerage firms operating in the rapidly growing Russian securities market, beating out esteemed competitors like Credit Suisse First Boston.

Not bad for a child of immigrants.

"I grew up speaking only Russian at home in Queens until I was 5 years old," Mr. Derby said in an interview last week in New York, where he was attending a conference on Russian markets. "When I went to Russia, I found the people there just like my family. I wanted to help them, but not to take advantage of them."

EDWARD WYATT

## Dec. 1-5: What Asian Crisis? The S. & P. 500 Hits a New High, and the Dow Is Up 4.2%

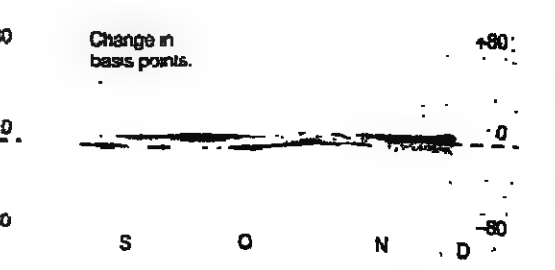
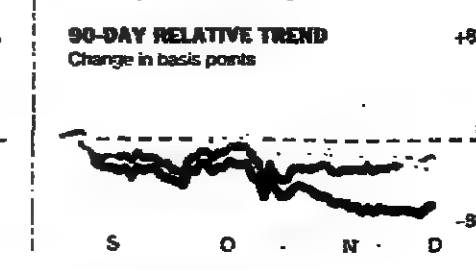
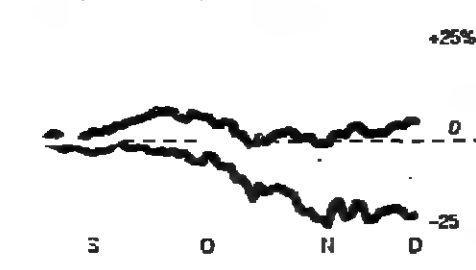
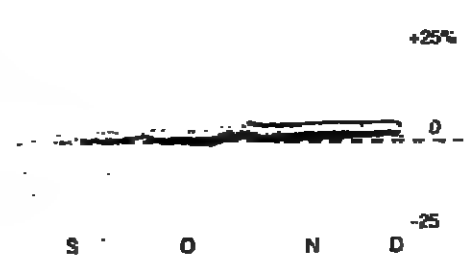
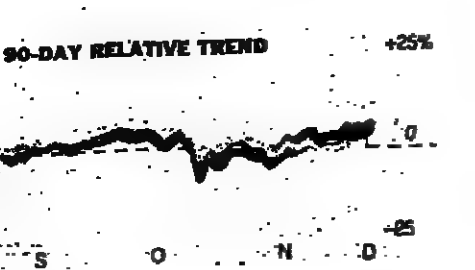
PRICES		
DOMESTIC EQUITIES		
Broad market	Up 2.97%	
S. & P. 500 index	983.79	
Blue chips	Up 4.17%	
Dow 30 industrials	8,149.13	
Small capitalization	Up 1.89%	
Russell 2000 index	439.06	

DOMESTIC BONDS		
Treasuries	Down 0.05%	
Ryan Labs. Total Return	210.79	
Municipals	Up 0.20%	
Bond Buyer index	122.56	
Corporates	Down 0.10%	
Merrill Lynch Master index	924.59	

AROUND THE WORLD		
European stocks	Up 3.14%	
F.T. Actuaries Europe	288.19	
Asian stocks	Down 1.25%	
F.T. Actuaries Pacific Basin	110.97	
Gold	Down 2.16%	
New York cash price	\$290.50	

YIELDS		
BONDS		
Long bonds	5.08%	
30-year Treasuries	Up 3 basis pts.	
Notes	5.78%	
2-year Treasuries	Up 2 basis pts.	
Municipals	5.33%	
Bond Buyer index	Down 3 basis pts.	

OTHER INVESTMENTS		
Money market funds	5.09%	
Taxable average	Up 5 basis pts.	
Bank C.D.'s	5.18%	
1-year small savers	Unchanged	
Stocks	1.58%	
S. & P. 500 dividend yield	Down 4 b.p.	



Sources: Bank Rate Monitor; Bloomberg Financial Markets; The Bond Buyer; Datastream; Goldman, Sachs, IBC's Money Fund Report; Merrill Lynch, Standard & Poor's, Ryan Labs



# The New York Times

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## Meltdown at Justice

Janet Reno last week blocked appointment of an independent counsel to investigate the campaign finance scandal, but she couldn't stop the cascade of reports about disarray in her department. A law firm so convulsed by conflict would soon be out of business, but for this Justice Department anarchy and mismanagement are a way of life.

The portrait that emerges starkly from a variety of recent accounts — in *The New Yorker*, *The Wall Street Journal* and *The Times*, to mention only a few — is that of a department lacking the leadership and organizational structure to deal with the most important criminal investigation in the capital. Ms. Reno, however flinty she may be, has not staffed key positions nor communicated any sense of urgency about enforcing campaign laws. Instead she has run true to the well-documented pattern she established as a Florida prosecutor, micromanaging minor issues while letting big ones drift, except for the rare times when she has a strong deputy.

The consequences are painfully visible, not least in her revision of the role of the nation's chief law enforcement officer. When Ms. Reno emerges into public view, it is always to say she cannot find evidence that any important Federal law has been broken, never mind all the unchallenged accounts of millions sluicing through the Asian pipeline. Every decision she has made and comment she has offered has minimized the offenses and excused the conduct of the White House and Democratic Party. The person who is supposed to be the nation's chief prosecutor, ever alert for signs of infraction, sounds instead like a technicality-hunting defense lawyer.

Under Ms. Reno, the criminal division, which would in a normal Justice Department be all over this investigation, has been without a leader for two years. This alone would be an inexcusable lapse. But as our colleague William Safire noted, the place is shot through with conflicts of interest. The acting

head, John Keeney, had to recuse himself from the campaign case because his son is a lawyer for John Huang, one of the central figures under investigation. The official responsible for supervising the inquiry, Lee Radek, the head of the public integrity section, is a timid bureaucrat regarded in some quarters, including the Federal Bureau of Investigation, as being more interested in controlling the case than in pushing it.

Little wonder that months were wasted as an inexperienced prosecutor working for Mr. Radek failed to chase the most obvious leads, many of which appeared on newspaper front pages. When Ms. Reno could no longer ignore the breathtaking incompetence of this bunch, she brought in Charles La Bella, a seasoned Federal prosecutor. He quickly clashed with Mr. Radek, who is still fighting to control the inquiry and still has Ms. Reno's ear.

By last week as Ms. Reno pondered whether to seek an outside counsel to investigate fund-raising calls by President Clinton and Vice President Al Gore, she faced open rebellion by Louis Freeh, the F.B.I. Director. He disassociated himself from Ms. Reno's handling of the scandal and made sure his views were known. The White House then all but invited Mr. Freeh to resign with a tepid statement of support — "Louis Freeh is leading that agency as best he can," in the weaselly words of Mike McCurry.

You do not have to believe, as we do, that Federal law requires appointment of an independent counsel to see that this is a department in managerial meltdown. Congress will be pressing Ms. Reno to unchain Mr. La Bella and Mr. Freeh and order Mr. Radek and his bureaucratic associates to stand aside. If Ms. Reno would only allow a vigorous investigation, she would soon find that her narrow reading of the independent counsel law cannot be sustained.

## Learning From 'The Lion King'

One child counted down the seconds until the 2 o'clock matinee began. A little girl stared, as did her mother, at the walls and ceiling of the New Amsterdam Theater, whose ornate marzipan. One evil parent turned to her son — or was it to his father? — and said, "I want you to know, a ticket to this costs as much as a ticket to Disney World for the whole day." But then the lights fell, and within moments the aisles and stage had filled with the animals of invention. Adults gasped, and every child in the audience began to reread an old, familiar text — the one inscribed on worn videos of Disney's animated "Lion King" — now brought to life by Julie Taymor on Broadway.

The special genius of Ms. Taymor's version of "The Lion King" is the way it unmasks — and de-cloys — the anthropomorphism of Disney's animated animal films. Ms. Taymor's production reveals the humans who animate the animals on stage. No actor is fully hidden by his mask or costume, and yet every actor is completely transformed by the character of animal movement. Life-size giraffes move stiffly across a symbolic savannah, but the audience is encouraged to see the human head from which the giraffe's neck rises and to admire the human frame that is poised so perfectly — so giraffely — on stilts. This is a way of articulating and closing the gap between the human and animal worlds, a gap that Disney's animation, and the often insipid philosophizing it accompanies, pretends is nonexistent.

Instead, Ms. Taymor's re-conception of the meaning of anthropomorphism reconnects the audience to the meaning of one of the signature songs in

"The Lion King" — "Circle of Life." That song now not only links lions and antelopes, flesh and grass. It reminds the listener that what is human is also partly animal and what is animal is also partly human.

Ms. Taymor uses what she calls "ideograms" to represent emotion and elements of the natural world. She and her collaborators have Africanized "The Lion King" visually and musically, turning what was a piece of largely unlocalized fluff into a striking evocation of place. She has made Rafiki, the male baboon-shaman in the film, into a half-cracked, all-wise woman who wears the totemic markings of a baboon. These choices demonstrate the agility and imagination of Ms. Taymor and her colleagues. But they also demonstrate something even more striking — the Walt Disney Company's willingness, in this case, to reinvent a known, and fabulously profitable, product, not by dumbing it down to live action, as in the stage production of "Beauty and the Beast," but by allowing Ms. Taymor to test the limits of representation and theatricality.

There is no formula to be found in the way Ms. Taymor has adapted "The Lion King." But perhaps there is a useful formula in Disney's decision to use its profits to restore the New Amsterdam Theater and to unleash Ms. Taymor. There are days when the new Times Square looks like nothing so much as a grand canyon of international icons staring at one another across a river of humans far below. What a miracle it would be if the corporations those icons represent were to conclude, as Disney in this one case has, that commercial prosperity licenses — even obliges — cultural risk.

Editorial Observer/BRENT STAPLES

## Waking Up — Too Late — in the Token Role

The conservative revolution started with the premise that a liberal orthodoxy had hijacked the culture and muzzled public debate. In truth, the architects of the right — Irving Kristol, Paul Weyrich, Pat Robertson, William Buckley — were advancing an orthodoxy of their own, one that cast liberalism as an evil to be wiped out at any cost. With conservatives controlling the national agenda — and the word liberal reduced to a slur — the goal is clearly within reach.

The movement succeeded largely because it was focused — and very well financed. Over the last 15 years, foundations and think tanks like Olin, Heritage, Hoover and Scaife have spent tens of millions of dollars boosting their positions through books, papers and intellectuals-for-hire. The rush of new money created a class of professionals who live very well cranking out ideology masked as disinterested scholarship.

Recruits were offered money, power and celebrity in exchange for ideological allegiance. But defectors who want out of the far right and into the respectable middle are peddling a more sentimental story. One after another, they have portrayed them-

### Why Glenn Loury broke with the right.

selves as principled dupes who found out only too late that they had fallen in with zealots. The political writer Michael Lind said in last year's manifesto, "Up From Conservatism." David Brock, the former hit man for *The American Spectator*, said it again at his departure from the right last summer. But no one has gotten quite the mileage of the economist Glenn Loury, whose black skin and formidable intellect were weapons for the Reagan White House and the 80's think-tank set.

Mr. Loury broke with his colleagues at the American Enterprise Institute — ostensibly for the racially "derogatory" tone of a book by Dinesh D'Souza — two years ago. He disappeared but came blazing back last month with essays in three publications, explaining his conversion. He turned right, he claims, after being excluded by black liberals for writing that the underclass was less

a product of racism than of moral decay. After a decade on the right, he fled left again when he suddenly discovered that his chums had a dictatorial "party line" on race and would brook no dissent.

This is too pat to be true, especially for a man of Mr. Loury's considerable intelligence. Race-baiting, Willie Hortonizing and homophobia were part of the package from the start and actually in fuller use in the 80's than now. That Mr. Loury failed to detect a "conservative party line" on race while cozying up to the Reagan Administration — and as a star on the conservative lecture circuit — is simply implausible. It seems likely that he ignored the evidence of his senses to embrace the celebrity he considered his due as one of the first black stars on the right.

Along with Clarence Thomas and the economist Thomas Sowell, Mr. Loury had both the good and bad fortune to be in the first wave. Desperate to immunize himself against the charge of racism, the conservative establishment provided enormous professional rewards to these three. These men suffered grueling and unfair abuse from black liberals who cast them as "race traitors." But

judging from Mr. Loury's experience, the most tortuous part of all was playing the role of the token — the lone black person in the room who is scripted to smile and nod his assent at the appropriate moment.

Even among liberals, African-Americans risk being patronized, pigeonholed and reduced to a kind of lawn ornament. Mr. Loury suffered this, but seems to have taken several years to realize it. The insight seemed to leap out in a 1990 speech, later reported in *The New Yorker*, during which he berated the audience for seeing only his black skin and taking his presence as proof that conservative policy was "nonracist." "If by some magic I were suddenly to become white," he railed, "my brilliant, perceptive, and courageous insights would... be reduced to pedestrian, commonplace complaints, of little personal comfort to you."

The realization that he had been used in this classically repugnant manner was clearly painful. It cost him friends, peace of mind and shaded everything that followed. For Mr. Loury to now cast his "conversion" in sterile policy terms is to tell less than the full truth.

## Americans Can Use the Law to Control Cloning

To the Editor:

In "On Cloning Humans, 'Never' Turns Swiftly Into 'Why Not'" (front page, Dec. 2), you quote Dr. Steen Willadsen as saying that "in America, cloning may be bad but telling people how they should reproduce is worse." But the defining characteristic of American life is not total personal freedom. It is self-rule by consensus. Americans have the power to forbid, through the passage of laws, any practice deemed destructive to our quality of life.

Two things are needed to navigate rapidly evolving reproductive technology: the wisdom to ascertain what should and should not be allowed and the conviction to shape our reasoning into law. If these qualities are not brought to bear, we deserve whatever world that cloning brings us.

In the meantime, anything that is not forbidden will be done. That we can count on.

SHERA DELANEY  
New York, Dec. 2, 1997

Why Cells Share

To the Editor:

Absent in the comments of ethicists and scientists in your Dec. 2 front-page article on cloning was the distinction between this technique and other "new reproductive arrangements," like in vitro fertilization and surrogate mothers.

To reproduce sexually, plants and animals take a cell, throw away half its genes (to form an egg or sperm cell) and then search for someone else to provide the missing half. If adaptations exist to get genes into the next generation, then asexual reproduction — cloning — should be more efficient. But among plants and animals it is almost nonexistent.

A body of literature over the last two decades suggests that the reason lies in the genetic variance of a sexually produced offspring. The benefits of its unique mix of genes when it confronts pathogens and parasites offsets

the loss of getting only half one's genes into the next generation. Sexual reproduction in plants and animals represents a fundamental form of sharing. Most "new reproductive arrangements" retain this sharing of genes. Cloning doesn't, and presents vastly different biological and ethical questions.

STEVE KISSING  
Tempe, Ariz., Dec. 2, 1997

The writer is a professor of biology at Arizona State University.

### Treating Infertility

To the Editor:

The New York University Medical Center's division of reproductive endocrinology, which was mentioned in your Dec. 2 front-page article on cloning, is not involved with research in cloning humans, though we may use techniques similar to those in cloning experiments. Our research is aimed at making the treatment of infertility easier. Infertility is a disease, one that wreaks havoc on many people's lives.

JAMIE A. GRIFO, M.D.  
New York, Dec. 2, 1997

The writer is director of the division of reproductive endocrinology at N.Y.U. Medical Center.

### Second-Class Citizens

To the Editor:

In your article on cloning (front page, Dec. 2), an unnamed doctor presents a hypothetical case: If a relative were to get cancer, the doctor would clone that relative and "use" the clone as a bone-marrow donor to save the patient's life.

But how, exactly, would the doctor "use" the clone? If humans are to be cloned, it is essential that clones are considered autonomous entities and accorded the same dignity and basic rights of others. The clone should not be "used" as a donor until he or she is capable of reasoned consent.

In another scenario, you say that "grieving parents may want to reproduce a terminally ill child." Easing grief is a worthy motive, but is it so simple? Little Jennifer is dying, alas, but Jennifer II will soon replace her! Again, the clone is somehow less than human, taking on characteristics of a fungible commodity.

But a person must never be treated merely as a means to another end, no matter how valid. This is a truth that those bedazzled by promising, and lucrative, applications have so far scandalously managed to ignore.

NONTAS KONSTANTAKIS  
Princeton, N.J., Dec. 4, 1997

### Romance of Childbirth

Dr. Eugene J. Fisher, Secretary for Ecumenical & Interreligious Affairs, National Conference of Catholic Bishops, Washington, Dec. 4, 1997

### New Nuclear Policy

To the Editor:

"The Price of Nuclear Preparedness" (editorial, Nov. 30) questioned the recent 10 percent increase in the cost of insuring the reliability of nuclear weapons. The United States has decided to forgo nuclear testing, and that's a gigantic change from the way we previously maintained our stockpile. It costs more without testing. We now better understand this job and anticipate a cost increase to \$45 billion from our earlier estimate of \$40 billion — still a small price to insure our nation's security.

We need other critical policy decisions about our uses of nuclear technologies. Senate debate on the comprehensive test ban treaty is likely next year. We must explore the revitalizing role of nuclear energy to insure future energy sources and to help address global competition for fossil fuels. Concerns about greenhouse gases further argue for re-examining nuclear energy. We must address waste disposal and proliferation.

Better new options exist for energy, proliferation and waste; we should explore them. Furthermore, we should restate our stockpile based on threats. These and similar initiatives may increase costs; they also may pay immense dividends.

We aren't wisely using nuclear technologies. The current anxiety-laden, fragmented state of nuclear policy debate in the country has created this situation. Irrational fears of perceived risks of nuclear technologies prevent us from actions to address real risks and optimize their use. As I've said in recent speeches at Harvard and elsewhere, it's time for a mature, scientifically based re-examination of nuclear technologies.

PETE V. DOMENICI  
U.S. Senator from New Mexico  
Washington, Dec. 5, 1997

### A Scientist's Duty

To the Editor:

Your Dec. 2 front-page article on cloning humans quotes Dr. Steen Willadsen, a cloning pioneer, as saying, "It is not for me, as a person who invents techniques, to say how we should use them." I challenge Dr. Willadsen and other scientists who agree with his statement to show responsibility and broader foresight.

It is easy to work for the sake of the task at hand, but in certain fields (genetics included), the consequences can extend beyond it. Failure to consider the consequences — even if beneficial — is irresponsible. Just ask the citizens of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

TONATIU RODRIGUEZ-NUKI  
Berkeley, Calif., Dec. 4, 1997

### Digital Classrooms

To the Editor:

"High-Tech Teaching Is Losing Its Gloss" (Week in Review, Nov. 30) does not describe the way we see teachers using technology in classrooms. It did not mention how students nationwide are researching and organizing interdisciplinary projects as multimedia presentations and disseminating their results on the Internet. Nor did it mention how foreign language teachers can use computers to give students examples and corrective feedback in speaking and writing a new language.

Teachers also use computers for creating molecular models, maps and proofs. They can also develop simulations of microeconomic activity with spreadsheets. Networks allow teachers to drive up the level of interaction in a class by communicating with students from home or using a school's World Wide Web site to make course links to supporting materials in museums, universities and libraries.

WILLIAM G. W. BARNES  
RODNEY J. LABRECQUE  
Wallingford, Conn., Dec. 5, 1997

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## THE ARTS

## Sigourney Weaver Eludes the Image Police

By WILLIAM MC DONALD

IT WOULD be too easy, perhaps sound trite and in any case introduce a bad pun to call the actress Sigourney Weaver a woman of many parts, even though, in more ways than one, she is. So think of her instead as the sum of her contradictions.

They begin to suggest themselves in a first sighting. The scene is the cozy but opulent lobby of a hotel on Central Park South on a rainy November morning. The brass doors open, letting in a puff of chilly air followed by the strikingly erect Ms. Weaver herself, sweeping in with a small entourage for yet another interview to promote her new movie, "Alien Resurrection," her fourth go-round as that fiercely intelligent and sinewy dragon slayer from space, Ellen Ripley.

If you had seen the movie or any of the other three in the "Alien" series, going back to 1979, you would expect to find in Ms. Weaver a woman of imposing, broad-shouldered height. She is, to be sure, a strapping 5 feet 10½ inches and certainly looks it in "Alien Resurrection," particularly when she's slam-dunking a basketball. ("I felt a great physical freedom and power in the role," she'll say later.)

But what may surprise you — and overturn any Wonder Woman preconceptions about her — is how slender this actress actually is, draped at the moment in an endless black raincoat, and how delicate her features are: small mouth, slightly downturned; sharp, elevated cheekbones, as if hydraulically enlisted to support her wide brown eyes and high forehead, all framed by a cascade of chestnut waves splashing onto, yes, broad shoulders, as square-ly defined as epaulets.

Quickly, in one glance, you begin to understand why, as a tall girl, she was called Amazon by her boarding-school classmates and why, as a beautiful girl, she resented it — so much so that by her father's account, she went and changed her name from Susan to the more stylish Sigourney, lifting it from an F. Scott Fitzgerald story.

Yet this is merely a surface introduction to the many opposing guises that Ms. Weaver carries with her like so many mismatched clothes in a hurriedly packed suitcase. The others reveal themselves only over time, only after you've seen a number of her movies (zany comedies, urbane comedies, domestic dramas, historical dramas, suspense thrillers, science-fiction thrillers); regarded her stage work (from the Yale Drama School to Broadway, from Shakespeare's Portia to Christopher Durang's unloving heroines of the Zeitgeist); spotted her in a slick magazine posing as a man-eating vixen, all splayed legs, parted lips and wild hair; read the reviews, like the one that says she "has a way of spreading her intelligence around, upgrading everything in the vicinity"; listened to her talk like the 49-year-old mother she is about her smothering maternal tendencies, manifested both at home and on the set, or caught her on late-night television giggling like an ingénue while breezily toying with David Letterman.

"I PREFER not to have any image, or any one image," she says, now curled on a couch in a suite at the hotel and sheathed in black, one shoulder bared. "It's because I come from the theater originally. My dream, when I was a young actor, was to be in a repertory company, where you could play the maid in one piece and then play the leading lady in another, and go from comedy to drama and really hop all over the place. And I actually realized a long time ago that you can't expect anything to happen; you can't expect anyone else to know what you want, where you want to go next. So I guess what I'm always doing is trying to create this mini-rep company in my head."

And on the screen, evidently. With the late-November opening of "Alien Resurrection," Ms. Weaver can now be seen, possibly in the same multiplex, in two vastly different film genres. Not only is she wielding a flamethrower again in outer space (in a movie that has drawn mixed reviews); she's also excavating the inner life of Janey Carver, a jaded, sultry, adulterous suburbanite of the

1970's in the critically lauded "Ice Storm." It's a serio-comic performance that the people around her are pushing for an Academy Award nomination (it would be her fourth; her three, none of which brought home an Oscar, were for "Aliens," "Gorillas in the Mist" and "Working Girl").

To Ms. Weaver, this double feature arriving from opposite ends of the cinematic spectrum is proof that rather than tarnishing a serious career, a periodic foray into the lavishly commercial realm of the Hollywood sci-fi action blockbuster gives a performer the freedom to indulge in the occasional art-house film.

"A big money-making film allows you to do 'Jeffrey' and 'Death and the Maiden,'" she says, referring to two of her more recent smaller films, both adapted from stage plays. "It gives you your wings." And gilded wings they are: with a budget of \$70 million for "Alien Resurrection," 20th Century Fox is reported to have paid her \$11 million.

Ms. Weaver has one word for anyone who questions her credibility as a serious actress because of her work in the "Alien" series: "Malarkey." James Schamus, the screenwriter and a producer of "The Ice Storm," has three: "Typical Hollywood sexism." Consider actors like Bruce Willis or Sylvester Stallone, he says; when they break out of the action-movie mold for something more serious, as Mr. Stallone did this fall in "Copland," the critics hail them for bravely doing the right thing.

"People don't remember that Sigourney has been one of the first serious actors able to piece together a career that incorporated every aspect of the movie-making spectrum," Mr. Schamus says. "People thought that Bruce Willis had broken that ground in 'Pulp Fiction.' Excuse me? She's been doing this all her life."

And setting an example for a younger generation of actors, says Winona Ryder, who has done some genre-hopping of her own, moving from literary films like "The Crucible" to a co-starring role in "Alien Resurrection." "Sigourney is the one person who's shown us that you can do it all," she says.

Still, as the only woman ever to shoulder such a big-budget action-movie franchise, Ms. Weaver may well be remembered most for "Alien," "Aliens," "Alien 3" and now "Alien Resurrection," the ending of which leaves a black-hole-size opening for another sequel. "It's been a great gig," Ms. Weaver says.

OF COURSE in the latest chapter it's not the same old Ripley who reappears. The resurrection in the title refers to the cloning by which she is involuntarily brought back to life 200 years (or 4 years in Hollywood time) after she hurled herself into an inferno in "Alien 3" rather than let a ferocious monster gestating inside her live. The twist is that the reconstructed Ripley has strands of the alien species woven into her DNA, enhancing her powers and infusing her with a dark, sardonic ambivalence about clashing again with probably the slickest monsters Hollywood ever devised, now vaguely her kin.

Ms. Weaver says it was the re-invention of the Ripley character — this "spirit of nihilism," as she calls it — that persuaded her to do a fourth "Alien" film after she had all but decided that three were enough.

"It seemed a challenge," she says. "You know, we all feel that when things get too difficult we have a way out, that it's finally up to each of us, that we can exit. And I thought, how awful it would be to find yourself in a world where you had exited, with all sincerity, and they had brought you back against your will. I tried to go with that idea as far as I could."

Ms. Weaver herself entered the universe by way of the Upper East Side. Born Susan Alexandra Weaver, she was the second child of the British actress Elizabeth Inglis ("The 39 Steps") and Sylvester (Pat) Weaver, an old pal of Nelson Rockefeller's who became president of NBC during its golden age, creating both the "Today" and the "Tonight" shows. Yet despite such entertainment-world parentage, it wasn't until she had passed through the exclusive Chapin School in Manhattan and Ethel Walker in Connecticut and was well into an English major at Stanford that Ms. Weaver took up acting



Sigourney Weaver as the extraterrestrial-busting Ellen Ripley clone in "Alien Resurrection," the fourth installment of the big-budget sci-fi series.

in student productions.

From there she went to Yale School of Drama, where she learned the trade with classmates like Meryl Streep, Wendy Wasserstein and Mr. Durang, her close friend ever since and today her child's godfather. It was Mr. Durang, in fact, who rescued Ms. Weaver's budding career when she was passed over for parts in the school's productions. He promptly cast her in his own early plays and gave her a vehicle for her Off Broadway debut in 1979, in "The Nature and Purpose of the Universe."

Her film career began in 1974 with a tiny part in Woody Allen's "Annie Hall." Her first leading role came in 1978 in a forgotten thriller, "Madman." But her big break came when she landed the role of Ripley in "Alien," a part originally written for a man.

And yet, Mr. Durang remembers some ambivalence on Ms. Weaver's part after she got the job. "She was telling me that when she took the audition she was disappointed because she had wanted to do the Henry James-type roles, because that's what she had trained for," Mr. Durang says. "And she was asking herself, 'Why am I not being called back for those roles?' But then she said she decided, 'Well, that's what's being offered by the universe. If you will, and she went into the 'Alien' part with a full commitment."

HE ALSO saw "Insecurities" and a "vulnerability" in her then, traces of which can still be heard as she assesses her career, wishing she'd done more comedies, believing her various roles have been too much of a type.

"I sort of deplore the fact that looking back, I've had such a serious career," she says in a voice that may clip off the end of a sentence, flutter a moment, then swoop into the lower registers in pursuit of another thought. "I'm not a serious person at all. Not that there's anything wrong with being serious, but I'm not a serious person. I'm more of an idiot. And it is upsetting to me that I've played one strong, serious — I hope they haven't been humorous, but if you were going to pigeonhole me, you might say that."

Her concern isn't unfounded. "A Yankee version of Athena," one critic once wrote about her. Indeed, words like "patrician," "frosty," "commanding," "austere" and "briny" have often attached themselves to her performances in movies like "Eyes Wide Shut" (1997), "The Year of Living Dangerously" (1983), "Gorillas in the Mist" (1988), "Copycat" (1995) and "Death and the Maiden" (1994).

Even in the 1988 comedy "Working Girl," she essentially offered a wicked sendup of a frosty, patrician yuppie executive. In other comedies, like the two "Ghostbusters" hits in the early 80's and "Dave" in 1993, she largely became stuck in what she calls the "girlfriend" rut, playing the pretty foil to funny men like Bill Murray and her good friend Kevin Kline.

Which perplexes her. "Comedy," she says, "is the one thing that I think I'm good at." Mr. Durang agrees. "She's had more opportunity on stage over the last 20 years or so to show a quirky kind of comedy that she hasn't really had much opportunity to show on film," he says.

THE RECORD bears that out. Ms. Weaver has won admiring notices in a number of Mr. Durang's piercingly topical satires, the latest coming a year ago, when she played a blond nymphomaniac in the otherwise roundly dismissed Broadway production of "Sex and Longing." In 1985, she won a Tony nomination as a bubblehead in David Rabe's "Hurlyburly." So why doesn't she work on stage more?

Is it the money? "It's certainly not the money," she says, as if surprised at the notion. The answer, she says, is her 7-year-old daughter, Charlotte. "When you have a small child," she says, "there's a whole ritual — a whole dinner-bathing-story ritual — and having only one child, I don't want to miss any of it. How do you tell her you have to leave at 6:30 each night, especially when homework starts?"

If Ms. Weaver is something of a homebody, she's also more a creature of New York than of Hollywood, living still on the Upper East Side with her daughter and her husband, the stage director James Simpson, and moving easily in Manhattan's spheres of glamour and luxury: showing up at charity galas around town, indulging in \$500 haircuts at the Bergdorf Goodman salon.

But this is a movie star who says she wants nothing to do with that title — "It's a role you play for a day" — hopes one day to direct a film with "a strong female protagonist" and describes herself as a mother, first and foremost.

a character actor second.

The chance to play a mother in "The Ice Storm" was, in fact, one reason she took the role. And as she wrapped herself in the part, her sympathy for Janey Carver grew. "When people say she's an ice queen, Ang and I both shudder," she says, referring to Ang Lee, the film's director. "Because she's smoldering with dissatisfaction, like a Masha character caught in a Chekhov piece. Smoldering with, you know, 'This is not life! This is pretense! She's not ice.'"

And Janey is not an indifferent mother, as some may see her, Ms. Weaver says. "I know some mothers who are like Janey," she says. "They're sort of direct with their kids. It's not the coddly mother. I'm a coddly mother. But Ang was very careful to let me know that he did not want what happens at the end to be Janey's punishment for not being that great a mother. He didn't see it as a moralistic tale."

What happens at the end is the death of Janey's oldest son on a frigid winter night in which Janey

leaves a mate-swapping party with a young man. In the original script, that was Janey's last scene, Mr. Lee says. But Ms. Weaver suggested that her character be brought back one more time, and the director agreed. Thus the final scenes show Janey curling up on a water bed in a fetal position and later, in an extreme close-up, waking to the sound of her husband crying in grief. "That brought so much sympathy not only to her but to the whole movie," Mr. Lee says.

They're words spoken like a director who admires an actor's skill. But Mr. Lee, who directed Emma Thompson and Kate Winslet in "Sense and Sensibility," also sounds irredeemably star-struck when talking about Ms. Weaver. To him she embodies something ineffable, and something not frequently found.

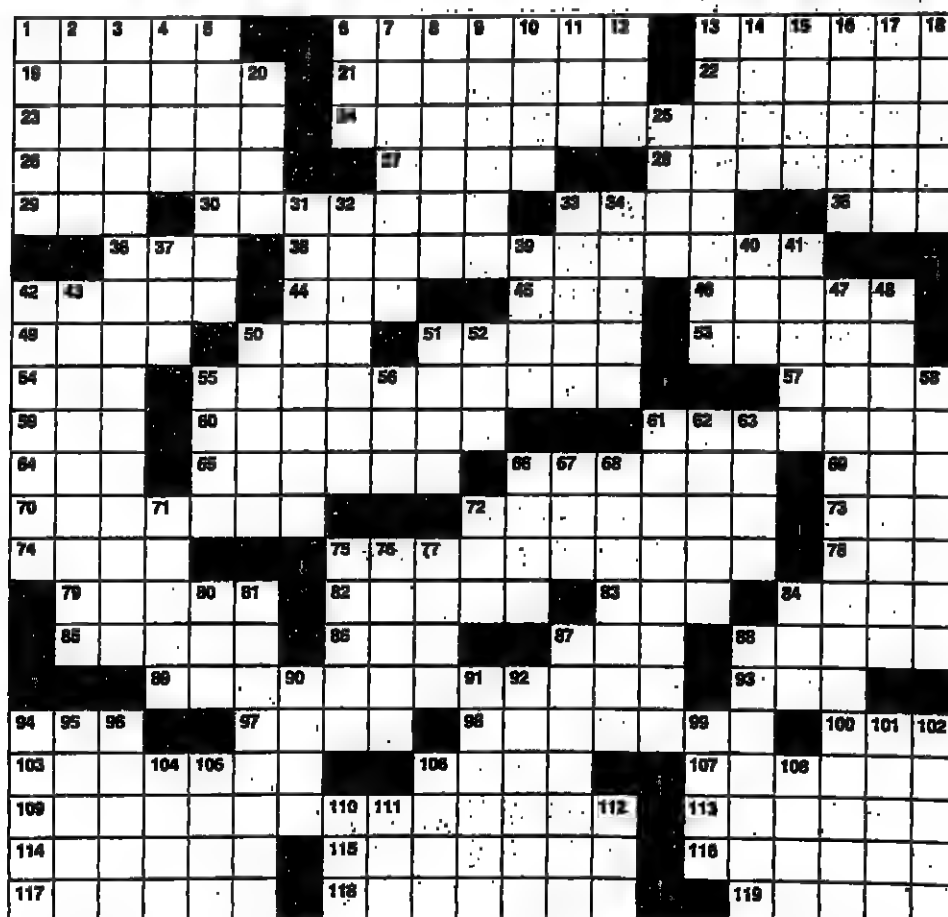
"There are serious actresses who never have the charisma to become movie stars," he says, "and there are movie stars who can never be serious. Sigourney is both."

## THAT'S TAT!

By RANDOLPH ROSS / Edited by WILL SHORTZ

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Sigourney Weaver with Guy Boyd in the play "Sex and Longing."





Will this winter bring scenes like this?

(Courtesy of Yediot Aharanot)

## After the flood

Guta Sherman lost her entire kitchen and most of her furniture in the floods that inundated Ra'anana last year. She remembers how the waters created "a small Sea of Galilee in our yard, ruining the cars' engines."

Children had to be carried out one by one from Dekel Elementary School, the puddles were so deep. The floods came after more than 90 millimeters of torrential rains swept the Sharon area last January. A gas station was washed away, a supermarket warehouse was ruined and some residents were stranded in waist-deep water in their homes. The navy had to bring rubber dinghies to rescue trapped people.

With winter approaching, Ra'anana residents are wondering what's in store for them this year.

The municipality has budgeted NIS 30 million to put in a new drainage system to relieve the lower lying areas, which were hardest hit. But city manager Uri Keidar cannot say for sure whether enough has been done to prevent a repeat of last year's floods.

The city council voted unanimously to give the project priority after last year's rains, Keidar said. But the three-stage project will not be completed until 1999.

"The first NIS 10m. has been invested to complete the first stage," says Keidar. "We have turned to other sources in the gov-

**Last year, floods wreaked havoc in Ra'anana. Catherine Cohen looks at what's being done to stave off disaster this winter**

ernment for more funds, but have not yet received any answers.

"In any case, NIS 10m. is not a grand amount and the continuation of the project does depend on getting these extra funds," he added.

New drain ducts have already been installed in some of the worst trouble spots in town (the intersection of Sheshet Hayamin and Schwartz streets and 800 meters north along Akiva Street; and at the intersection of Weizmann and Keren Hayesod streets and 800 meters down to the Ra'anana River, in the direction of

the industrial zone.)

But drainage pipes will be installed only next year, when the city intends to start cleaning out the sewers as well.

Keidar commends local residents for drawing up a petition that persuaded the city to give priority to the drainage project.

The petition was organized by 48-year-old Alegra Hayim, who has since moved to the United States. The demand, sent to Ra'anana Mayor Ze'ev Bielski, was signed by 20 building committees on Schwartz Street representing more than 200 families.

Alegra's mother, Hilda Hayim, who still lives on Schwartz Street, sighs as she remembers last year's floods.

"The street pavement was not properly angled and the water streamed into our garden and our lobby instead of into the water ducts on the road," she said. "The lobby filled with more than half a meter of water. About 20 centimeters of water accumulated in the garage causing irreparable damage to several cars, and the bomb shelter was deep in water and had to be drained."

"The water was also knee-deep in the elevator, which was out of use for two days and also had to be drained. She said that workers have been digging and installing new drainage for the past three months. "I hope they finally figure out how to solve the drainage problem," she added. "I can't say they aren't trying."

Keidar couldn't guarantee that



A gas station attendant at the Ra'anana intersection keeps his feet above water in last year's floods.

(Israel Sun)

there wouldn't be any flooding this year. But he said he expects that even heavy rains wouldn't cause as much damage as they did last year.

"The people at the municipality may be sleeping easy because of

the project," says Haim Sherman whose parents' home was flooded last year. "But whenever it rains my parents and I still don't sleep."

"I try not to be pessimistic," adds Hilda Hayim, "but we won't know until the first days of heavy rain."

## Lost for words

You'd think they were playing for the world championships.

Actually, they were, but what attracted the swarm of media to their table was not so much prowess as politics. For Jerusalemite JJ Jonah, and Salah Salih of Saudi Arabia, this was war — a war of words, but genteel, mannerly, collegial.

"It was odd," JJ recalled last week, on his return from the World Scrabble Championships in Washington D.C. "You'd think we had nothing in common, but with Scrabble, we were culturally alike."

For one game at least, the media abandoned the big-name players at Table 1 to check in on this miniature peace process (this was, after all, Washington D.C.).

"The reporters got right to the point. First they asked, 'Did you win?' I said 'Yeah.' Then they asked, 'What was it like playing your enemy?'"

JJ rolls his eyes and laughs. "My enemy? No, we didn't see it like that. We were real friendly." (This was not, strictly speaking, a first: a couple of years ago, a player from Saudi Arabia attended the Jerusalem Scrabble Club.)

Several newspapers published a photo of JJ, wearing a kippa crocheted with the words "Scrabble" and "JJ," playing against Salih, their national flags displayed alongside the board. "When I told Salih that I heard his picture was in an Israeli newspaper, he couldn't believe it."

JJ and Paloma Raychbart of Ramat Gan, the two Israelis among 80 players from 36 countries, often found themselves matched against players from the Muslim world — or against each other (Paloma beat JJ twice). If you keep score of such things, the Israelis were a combined 6-2. JJ defeated the Saudi twice, Rajah Abdullah of Malaysia and Assad ul-Haq of Qatar once each, and had a win and loss against Linda Pray of Oman.

Paloma had wins against Abdullah, ul-Haq and Wone Mamadou of Kuwait. Perhaps in the interest of regional stability, she had her worst result against the Saudi, losing 594-290. She didn't discuss politics with any of them.

"I wasn't going to initiate any conversations like that," she says, light-lipped. But when Paloma, originally from England, took on the player from France, ah — that got her Irish up a tad.

JJ, 27, who immigrated from Canada at the age of eight, considers himself thoroughly Israeli. So naturally, when he was paired against Austin Tan Kiat Hing of Singapore, JJ greeted him in fluent Chinese. He also startled Ken Nakai of Japan with a few words of Japanese. A sudden thought seized him later: "Y'know, I could have talked to the Arabs in Arabic too."

For all that, the tournament's lingua franca was, of course, English. "It was really weird, though: some of the players — such as the Thais, Singaporeans, the Romanian — they don't really understand English very well, but they play English Scrabble. They know the words, not the language," says JJ.

Even weirder is that some of the North Americans were like that too. "These guys are phenomenal geniuses, their brains work on a higher plane, but say 'Hi, how are you?' and they stare at you blankly and say 'uh...uh.' I asked one guy how he did in a game, and he answered: 'Academically?' I have no idea what he meant by that.

"One of the funniest

moments of the tournament was when the director, in his opening remarks, said: 'In this room are some of the most brilliant minds in the world. Stop asking what time the first game is tomorrow morning.' I mean, there were signs all over, but they couldn't figure out where the bathroom was."

At that level, talk is less about words per se,

and more about mathematical probabilities, tile management and computerized iterations (for which — and this is the scary part — they don't even need computers).

One such mastermind in attendance, JJ Chew (no relation) of Toronto, once won a high-school contest by memorizing

pi to over 500 places.

JOEL SHERMAN, one of the odder oddballs, "walks, talks, and in every way, behaves unusually," JJ reports. But you can get away with a lot when you earn the title "World Champion." The 35-year-old retired bank clerk from the Bronx finished first, then won a best-of-five championship series against the runner-up, his practice mate Matt Graham, to win \$25,000.

Sherman goes by the nickname GI Joe; the GI stands for "gastrointestinal," a tribute to the various illnesses and constant gaseous ructions that render him unable to work, allowing him to devote his life to Scrabble.

Graham, 31, a stand-up comedian, might be a better player if he lived in Israel. Earlier in the tournament, he challenged the word HAF-TAROT (it's acceptable); in the final game against Sherman, with the letters BDEINOU, he might have won had he seen BEDOUIN.

"It's incredible, being among them," JJ recalls. "During the championship series — the two finalists played in a sealed room, while almost 100 players and fans watched on closed-circuit TV — we could see their tiles, and the plays they made. In his opening rack, Graham had the letters AFIN-STU."

Normal people might see FAN, or FUN, or maybe even FAINT. Not these people. "In a second, everyone starting shouting together: 'FUSTIAN! FUSTIAN!' It was hilarious."

JJ detected one difference that sets apart the stratospheric geniuses: "they never blame bad luck."

He was somewhat disappointed with his results, 10-11, 53rd place (Paloma, 9-12, was 60th). No? So what happened?

He shakes his head and grimaces. "Bad luck."

If he can overcome two other factors, he believes he could muscle into the top 20.

First of all, experience. "The level of play, the intensity, was unbelievable."

More important, word knowledge. Players in Israel abide by the 100,000-word American Scrabble dictionary. But that's a pittance compared to the 140,000 entries of the British dictionary, which most of the world uses. (Both were used in the championships.) JJ tried desperately to learn "new" words, burnishing them into that part of his brain that collects and collates obscure words, and even the relationships of individual letters.

"Those 40,000 extra words make it a very, very different game," he says.

"Mind you, by the end of the tournament, I'd learned a lot of new words."

It must be a relief to be back home, at the Jerusalem Scrabble Club, where JJ is the champion and the vocabulary is mercifully familiar.

"Not really," JJ moans. "Now I have to unlearn all those new words."

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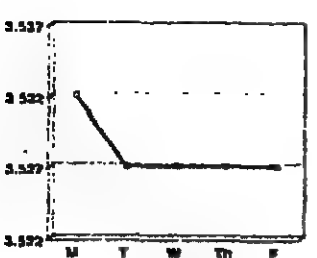
# BUSINESS & FINANCE

19

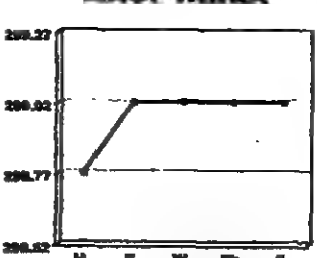
## MARKETS

in brief

DOLLAR / SHEKEL\*

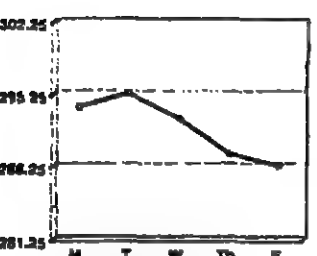


MAOF INDEX\*



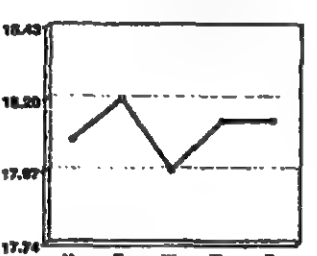
GOLD

\$ per ounce



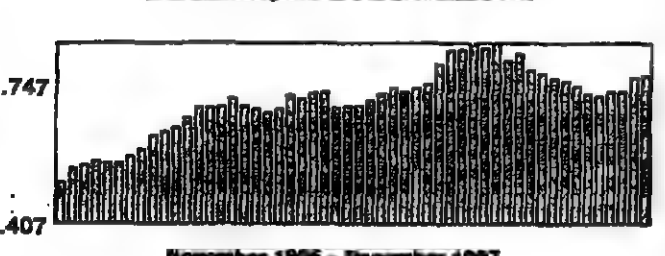
OIL

\$ per barrel of Brent crude



\*TASE/Shekel did not trade yesterday due to strike.

DOLLAR / DEUTSCHEMARK



DOW JONES INDUST. AVG.



## Discount Inv. sells Clal stake to IDB

By DAN GERSTENFELD

Discount Investments said yesterday that it will sell its 6.1 percent holding in Clal Israel to its parent company IDB Development Corporation for NIS 195 million. The company will sell its stake in Clal at NIS 1.04 a share, which is equal to its average trading price

on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange over the last 30 days. IDB, which holds 42% of Clal, controls the holding company and analysts said that the move was expected and is in line with Discount's strategy. Dov Tadmor, managing director of Discount Investments, said that the main reason for the transaction

is that investors usually don't like to see one investment company holding shares in another investment company. "The deal will have no negative impact on investors, as it was done at the market price," Tadmor said. He declined to say how the company is going to use the money.

In a statement, Discount said that the deal is part of its policy of developing its investment portfolio and that it is interested in "specific areas." The company has stated that it intends to focus mainly on the fields of communications, infrastructure, and financial services. Boaz Leviatan, an analyst at

Sabar Securities, said the deal will benefit shareholders. "Discount Investments received the shares in Clal on various occasions in the past, but it was not logical to keep on holding them," Leviatan said. "It was inappropriate for IDB to hold part of its holdings in Clal through Discount."

## UBS, SBC to create No. 1 fund manager

ANDREW BLACKMAN  
and RITO GREGORI

ZURICH - Union Bank of Switzerland and Swiss Bank Corp., Switzerland's largest and third-largest banks, plan to unite in a share swap to create a company with a market value of about Sfr 84 billion, (\$59 billion), a person familiar with the situation said.

While UBS shareholders will own 60 percent of the enlarged bank, which will be called United Bank of Switzerland, the company will be run by SBC Chief Executive Marcel Ospel. As many as 12,000 jobs will be lost, more than 5,000 of them outside Switzerland, this source said. UBS and SBC declined to comment.

The merger comes as the global banking industry consolidates. UBS's position as the world's third-biggest asset manager was under threat after Merrill Lynch & Co. last month said it will buy the UK's Mercury Asset Management Group Plc for \$5.2 billion, raising its assets to \$450 billion.

"It's a wise move concerning the competitiveness of Swiss banks," said Peter-Mark Vogel, a fund manager at Societe Generale Bank & Trust. "There will be a lot of synergies, but it will take time to consolidate."

A union between UBS and SBC, the owner of SBC Warburg Dillon Read, will create a banking giant with estimated assets under management of more than Sfr 1 trillion, leapfrogging Fidelity to become the world's biggest money manager.

The move follows a flurry of mergers in banking and financial services. In November, Travelers Group Inc. completed its \$9.3 billion acquisition of Salomon Inc., months after Morgan Stanley

Group Inc. and Dean Witter, Discover & Co. merged in an \$11 billion transaction.

UBS and SBC have a combined workforce of about 58,000 people, 40,000 of them in Switzerland. The union will give the banks more clout in investment banking, and allow them to cut costs in their Swiss retail network. The Swiss units have held back rising profits from investment banking and asset management for years.

Three of the new bank's four divisions will be run by SBC managers. Gary Brinson will be head of asset management, while Johannes de Gier will run investment banking, and another unnamed SBC official will head private banking, said the person familiar with the plan.

Stephan Haeringer, in charge of Switzerland at UBS, will be head of the combined company's retail-banking division. Mathis Caballavetta, currently UBS's chief executive, will be chairman of the new bank, the people said.

Credit Suisse Group, currently Switzerland's second-largest financial services company, will become the biggest December 15 when it completes its acquisition of Winterthur Insurance Co. for about Sfr 15b. Swiss francs in stock.

In April 1996, Credit Suisse approached UBS offering a merger, but was rebuffed by the No. 1 bank, which said it was concerned about job losses in Switzerland. UBS and SBC shares rose last week amid speculation of a merger.

On Friday, UBS shares rose 2.1%, while SBC shares rose to 3.8%, to 447.5 francs. That brought gains since merger speculation began Wednesday to 4.4% for UBS and 7.2% for SBC. (Bloomberg)



Italian students protest proposed education cuts  
Italian high school students dress up in historic costumes and carry banners in Rome to protest proposed cuts to the public school system. (AP)

## Kitan lays off 250 workers in Upper Nazareth, Tel Aviv

By DAVID HARRIS

Kitan Industries yesterday became the latest textile company to announce a job-cut. The company is axing 250 of its 320-strong workforce in Upper Nazareth, and a further 30 at its Tel Aviv head office.

The decision to slash staff was made on Thursday, when Kitan's directors approved a strategic pro-

gram for the company's future. There will be wide-scale cutbacks in the company's spinning and weaving operations, which in turn will mean much of the older machinery will be discarded and not replaced.

To implement the changes, the company expects to spend some NIS 42.8 million, according to a notice sent yesterday to the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange.

Kitan Industries, a subsidiary of Kitan Consolidated, said there were several reasons for the move: • Lowering of import duties. • General increase in wages, but particularly in the minimum wage. • A real terms increase in the cost of municipal property taxes (armon). • Costs of environmental improvements. • Appreciation of the shekel.

A reduction in the size of grants available to development areas. • An increase in world competition in the industry, particularly because of the lowering of world trade tariffs. The company's spinning and weaving activities will now be centered in its Dimona factory, with newer machinery in place. The Nazareth plant will concentrate on bedroom linen sewing.

Less than a year ago the company transferred much of its sewing to the territories and Jordan to save costs. All the workers in the Nazareth factory staged a walkout in response to the news. Staff main-

tain this is another step leading to the closure of the factory. This was denied yesterday by Kitan Industries Managing Director Gidi Lax. High-quality sewing will remain in Nazareth, he said. "There is no intention to move the company to Jordan," said Lax. "I see a very good future for the company." Lax said he is not angry with anyone in particular and said he understands if the minimum wage or exchange rate policies are seen as beneficial for the country as a whole or individual sections, but the government must realize that there will be those that cannot survive in such an economic climate.

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## רשות שדות התעופה בישראל Israel Airports Authority

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The Israel Airports Authority (IAA) hereby requests separate proposals for the supply of materials for the new Ben Gurion 2000 Project.

1. Tender No. F 3020033 Supply of Toilet Accessories
2. Tender No. F3030034 Supply of Ceramic Tiles
3. Tender No. F3040035 Supply of Toilet Fixtures
4. Tender NO. F3050036 Supply of Hardware for Doors and Frames

Proposal Pre-conditions:

1. Bidder must be registered in Israel and/or recognized as a legal entity in its country of origin.
2. Bidder is an authorized representative of the manufacturer(s) of the product(s) it proposes in its proposal.
3. Bidder has a minimum of five (5) years experience in the supply of the construction related products.
4. Bidder's annual average gross revenue in the supply of construction related materials during the last three (3) years is a minimum of one million US dollars (\$1,000,000) during the last three (3) years.
5. Bidder has successfully fulfilled and completed a minimum of two (2) purchase orders, each of a minimum value of one hundred thousand US dollars (\$100,000) during the last three (3) years.
6. Bidder must also provide, as part of the proposal, a bank guarantee in the amount stated in the respective tender documents.

Proposal Documents: Tender documents may be obtained until the date specified below against a non-refundable payment of five thousand shekels (NIS 5000) inclusive of Value Added Tax, for Tenders F3020033, F3030034, and F3050036. Tender documents for Tender F3040035 may be obtained until the time of bid against a non-refundable payment of two thousand five hundred shekels (NIS 2500), inclusive of Value Added Tax.

Tender documents are available from the Reception of the Main Office of the Israel Airports Authority, Ben Gurion International Airport, from December 14, 1997 to December 18, 1997, between the hours of 9 a.m. and 12 noon, Sunday through Thursday. After these hours and/or dates, tender documents may be obtained by contacting the Project Management Firm (PMF), Contracts Administrator, Mr. Amnon Yehoshua at telephone number 972-3-977-4484.

Prior to purchase of tender documents, bidders may review their content and proposal pre-conditions at the location and during the times indicated above. All qualifying proposals should be delivered in sealed envelopes not later than 10 a.m. local time on January 6, 1998 to the appropriate tender box located in the Archive of the Airports Authority Main Office, 2nd Floor, Room No. 113, Ben Gurion International Airport, Israel.

A joint pre-proposal conference will be held at the Ben Gurion 2000 Project Site Offices on December 21, 1997 at 10 a.m. to respond to bidders' questions and to clarify provisions of the RFPs. Attendance is optional. Site access must be arranged in advance as stated in the tender documents. The IAA is not bound to accept the lowest proposal or any other proposal whatsoever.

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## IEC wage 135% higher than national average

By Globes News Service

The highest average salaries in the economy are paid to workers in the Israel Electric Corporation and the water supply sector, according to figures published yesterday by the Central Bureau of Statistics.

In September, they reached a monthly average of NIS 13,185. This is 135% higher than the national average, which was NIS 5,610.

The data does not include workers in the territories. The information reveals that salaries in the electricity and water sector rose in real terms by a steep 3.7% in the months January - September, compared to only 1.9% for the national average salary. The salary rise in the electricity

and water sector follows a real increase of 12% in the last two years.

The second place on the salaries table was taken by workers in banks and insurance companies, with an average salary of NIS 9,201, 64% higher than the national average.

Real salaries in banking and insurance rose by a sharp 3.9% in January - September this year, a continuation of the 5.7% increase in 1996.

The lowest average salaries were found in hotels, cafes and restaurants.

In September they reached an average of only NIS 2,961, 43% less than the national average. The agricultural sector also had a low average of NIS 3,377, which is 40% less than the national average salary.

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# Halla group declared bankrupt

By JUDY LEE

SEOUL - Halla Group was declared bankrupt after it failed to repay \$215 million of debt, said an official of the Korea Exchange Bank, Halla's main creditor.

The bank said the South Korean company, which is involved in industries ranging from auto parts to shipbuilding to construction, had debts of at least \$5.8 billion, making the bankruptcy Korea's second-largest corporate failure in history.

Korea Exchange Bank had postponed a debt payment earlier this week. The demise may be the first in a series of bankruptcies triggered by the strict conditions Korea accepted as part of its record bailout, led by the International Monetary Fund.

The IMF has insisted on an overhaul of Korea's crippled financial and industrial companies in return for a loan that could be as much as \$60 billion.

"I'm afraid the whole country may collapse even without trying to reform itself," said Shin Hoo Shik, an economist at Daewoo Research Economic Institute. "I doubt there will be many surviving entities when the business environment toughens in coming years under the IMF-led restructuring."

Halla's troubles are the biggest crisis yet for the founding family of the Hyundai Group, Korea's largest industrial group. Hyundai Motor Co., the group's flagship, plunged 7.8 percent on the Korea Stock Exchange today, while the benchmark KOSPI

index inched up 0.4%.

The IMF calls for slower growth, higher taxes, reduced investment and more access to Korean industries and financial markets in return for the record global bailout for the insolvent nation.

Halla Group said it will seek court receivership for its two of 8 major units - Halla Engineering & Heavy Industries, one of Korea's top five shipyards, and Halla Merchant Marine Co.

Three other units - Mando Machinery Corp., which is Korea's largest auto parts maker, Halla Cement Manufacturing Co. and Halla Engineering & Construction Co. - will ask for courts to reschedule debt payments.

"Huge losses at our flagship

Halla Engineering burdened the group heavily at a time when banks stopped extending fresh loans and started calling in loans," said Park Sung Suk, a vice chairman of the group.

The collapse of Halla will be a severe blow to the nation's auto and shipbuilding industry - Korea's key export items and the backbone of economic growth. If Mando shuts its doors, it will cripple Korea's auto industry, which turns out more than 3 million vehicles a year, as the company supplies more than 60 percent of auto parts to Hyundai Motor, Kia Motors Corp., Ssangyong Motor Co. and other domestic auto makers.

The shipbuilding industry is also at stake, as foreign clients may shun Korean shipbuilders with

bankruptcy fears of 8 mounting. The average Korean company has four times more debt than equity, leading to vulnerability when interest rates remain high and the won weakens.

The three-year corporate bond yield, the benchmark interest rate, soared to 19.95%, the highest in 15 years. The won lost 40 percent of its value this year, inflating the cost of servicing foreign debts.

Halla is one of the most highly leveraged groups in Korea. Its total debt is 20 times bigger than its equity capital.

"Halla's collapse was expected as the nation's financial crisis has deepened," said Hwang Sung Tack, a fund manager at Hyundai International Merchant Bank.

"Investors started asking who will be the next [to fail]," (Bloomberg)

## NEWS

in brief

### EU warns Italy not to lower guard

European Union commissioner Mario Monti warned Italy at the weekend not to be complacent in its bid to become a member of the European single currency, saying that more structural reforms were needed to bolster the economy.

"It is important that no country takes its membership of the single currency for granted. The final spirit should serve to overcome the last psychological and political resistance," Monti told an industrial convention in this northern city.

Italian newspapers reported on Friday that Treasury Minister Carlo Azeglio Ciampi was concerned that government allies were convinced Italy was guaranteed a place in the single currency and were therefore seeking to dilute the 1998 budget.

Monti said probably more countries than originally thought would enter the euro from its planned launch in 1999.

"Italy has to think long and hard from today onwards about what will happen the morning after it [joins the European Monetary Union]," Monti said. *Reuters*

### No orders for new long-haul Boeing

Boeing has received no orders for an ultra-long-range model of its 777 jetliner and has slowed design work on the jet as it evaluates the program.

Boeing had hoped to launch development of the 200-seat aircraft by the end of the year so the first plane could be delivered in late 2000. But without any orders after six months of marketing, Boeing is "assessing the cost-effectiveness" of the program, Boeing spokeswoman Kirsti Dunn said Thursday.

Boeing said it could still deliver the new twin-engine airplanes, called the 777-200/300X, by 2000 if it receives enough orders to justify a launch by May.

The aircraft, a derivative of Boeing's popular 777 series, would be capable of flying nonstop 16,000 km, making 18-hour flights possible. The plane is being aimed at long routes, primarily in the Pacific, that don't have the passenger loads to justify the larger-capacity Boeing 747-400.

American Airlines and Delta Air Lines are expected to order the new 777 eventually under their long-term plans to buy Boeing jets over the next 20 years. But so far, only one airline, Malaysian Airline Systems, has said it wants the new jet. *AP*

### UN: Urban Africa jobless to reach 30% by 2000

Sub-Saharan Africa must encourage small, labor-intensive industries to generate jobs for some 8.7 million people who will enter the labor market each year until 2010, the International Labor Organization said on Monday.

The United Nations agency said unemployment rates in Africa's urban areas were projected to approach 30 percent by the year 2000 unless action was taken to reverse the trend. This rate had already doubled over the past 15 years to 20%.

The continent has been showing its first signs of economic resurgence, with overall growth rate at 3.7% in 1995.

Thirty-three of the 50 Sub-Saharan countries that year posted growth rates that were higher than the population growth rate, according to the ILO's *Jobs for Africa* policy report. *Reuters*

## Malaysia's Mahathir backs new policies

By MADHAV REDDY

KUALA LUMPUR (Reuters)

Malaysia's Prime Minister Mahathir Mohammed yesterday gave his backing to the new economic policy measures announced by his deputy last week to restore investor confidence and cool the economy.

"We have decided on these measures... but I cannot say how much clearer we can be," he was quoted as telling reporters at the northern resort island of Langkawi.

"But certainly it is clear that we are taking the necessary measures to restore confidence in the economy," he said at a news conference at the end of the six-day Langkawi International Maritime and Aerospace (LIMA '97) exhibition.

He did not elaborate. Deputy Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim announced on Friday that the government had slashed its 1998 growth forecast, tightened credit and cut spending across the board.

Anwar said the measures would cut growth of gross domestic product to between four and five percent in 1998,

down from an earlier estimate of 7%.

The current account deficit, considered a key barometer of the economy's sustainability, was revised down to about three percent of gross national product from 4% for 1998.

Economists have lauded the package but said they wanted Mahathir to endorse the measures. Mahathir caused some confusion last Thursday by announcing that a \$3 billion land bridge project to Thailand would go ahead despite international pressure to slow down construction and infrastructure projects.

Anwar said only the gas and petroleum pipeline portion of the project will go ahead, while the rail and road sections were being deferred indefinitely.

Economists told Reuters yesterday that the self-imposed austerity measures will cause much adjustment pain in many sectors of the economy over the next one to two years.

But the acknowledgment that problems exist in the economy, a change from earlier denials, will help in a faster return to stability.

### WHERE TO GO

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## Coryo close to finding a buyer

By JUDY LEE

SEOUL - Coryo Securities Corp., which collapsed on Saturday after failing to repay debts, said it is holding talks with several companies and should be ready to announce a buyer next week.

Coryo, among South Korea's top 10 securities firms, became the first brokerage in Korea to fail in 14 years after it defaulted Saturday on \$295 million, more than double the its paid-in capital.

Coryo's President Lee Yeon Woo declined to identify the companies with which it is in talks, but said they include financial companies. The final result of the discussions will be revealed next week.

"We have made considerable progress in our negotiations," he said.

The brokerage's demise comes as the entire Korean financial industry prepares to shape up, merge, or close - under the terms of an International Monetary Fund bailout that could top \$60 billion.

About 50 Korean public companies collapsed and the benchmark KOSPI index of 775 Korean stocks lost a third of its value this year, as slowing economic growth sapped cash flow, making it harder for companies to repay debt.

(Bloomberg)

## Pact to solve IAI cash-flow crisis

A compromise was reached yesterday under which the government will provide funding to help Israel Aircraft Industries deal with its severe cash flow problem, the Defense Ministry announced yesterday.

Under the agreement, IAI workers will defer salary increases due on January 1, and the company agreed that future raising of working capital will take place via public share offerings. The company committed itself to take all steps necessary to prepare for such share offerings, including conducting negotiations on the matter with the workers.

According to the Defense Ministry statement, the negotiations on providing working capital for IAI took two weeks, and were conducted in recognition of the fact that IAI is a major defense and space industry, and that it has a number of significant orders, 80 percent of which are aimed at the export market.

Jerusalem Post Staff



Japanese environmentalists appeal for a reduction of greenhouse gas emission during a rally in Kyoto yesterday.

## Japan mulls stricter definition for bad loans

By JACKIE ANDREWS

TOKYO - Japan's Ministry of Finance said it's considering a stricter definition of "unrecoverable loans," soothing investors' concerns about hidden losses but possibly tripling the declared value of banks' bad loans.

The November 24 collapse of Yamaichi Securities Co., which admitted to the equivalent of \$2.1 billion in hidden losses on stock transactions, heightened concerns that other Japanese financial companies may have understated their debts.

"We're now discussing changing the definition of bad loans with the major banks," said Sei

Nakai, senior deputy director of the Ministry of Finance's banking bureau. "The debate on the appropriateness of Japan's definition is one reason there has been anxiety in the market."

Japanese banks may hold 79 trillion yen in unrecoverable loans, more than three times the value of loans that banks officially reported as non-performing as of the end of March, the *Nihon Keizai* reported on Saturday, without citing sources. The amount, worth 14 percent of the total loans extended, may reflect a broader definition of a bad loan.

The Ministry of Finance said it will declare the amount of banks' bad loans by mid-December, for the first time including loans that

banks believe may eventually turn out to be unrecoverable.

By US standards, bad loans include those with defaults of more than three months, or those on which interest payments have been waived or lowered to help borrowers. By Japanese standards, the default period has to be more than six months, or the interest rate cut to below the official discount rate of 0.5 percent.

The Ministry of Finance will set tougher standards for bad loans held by Japanese banks as part of a plan to promote information disclosure by banks, the Tokyo newspaper reported on Saturday, without citing sources.

The standard is likely to label loans as non-performing when

principal payments are delayed for more than three months, the standard used by the US Securities Exchange Commission, the report said.

Japan's Ministry of Finance and the Bank of Japan believe nationwide banks accounted for 57.3 trillion yen of the industry's possibly unrecoverable loans, while regional banks probably accounted for 21.7 trillion yen, according to the *Nihon Keizai* report.

Japan's lower house finance committee Friday passed legislation allowing the semi-public Deposit Insurance Corp., a banking system safety net, to provide money to cash-strapped banks that agree to merge.

(Bloomberg)

## Kodak loses WTO Fuji appeal

Kodak is losing market share in the US to archival Fuji and was seeking a WTO ruling as Japan platform to boost sales in Japan.

Kodak's investors and analysts, who expected Fuji to win, said neither victory nor failure would've done much to change

the company's sales prospects, in part because Japanese consumers prefer Fuji.

Kodak's chances now rest with the US government, which raised the possibility of using unilateral sanctions as a way of getting Japan to open markets Kodak regards as closed.

(Bloomberg)

### ISRAEL MONEY MARKETS

Patah (foreign currency deposit rates) (7.11.97)

Currency (deposit for)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS
U.S. dollar (\$250,000)	5.000	5.000	5.250
Pound sterling (£100,000)	5.525	5.750	6.000
German mark (DM 200,000)	2.250	2.375	2.875
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	0.825	0.825	1.000
Yen (10 million yen)	—	—	—

(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)

Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates\* (2.12.97)

	CHECKS AND TRANSFERS		BANKNOTES		Rep. Rates**
	Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell	
Currency basket	3.7680	3.6288	—	—	3.7674
U.S. dollar	3.5020	3.5885	3.44	3.61	3.5270
German mark	1.9750	2.0090	1.94	2.04	1.9932
Pound sterling	5.8960	5.8621	5.78	6.08	5.9419
French franc	0.5901	0.5997	0.58	0.61	0.5957
Japanese yen (100)	2.7240	2.7689	2.57	2.81	2.7510
Dutch florin	1.7527	1.7810	1.72	1.81	1.7687
Swiss franc	2.4509	2.4905	2.40	2.53	2.4753
Swedish krona	0.4608	0.4676	0.44	0.47	0.4548
Norwegian krona	0.4532	0.4531	0.47	0.50	0.4889
Denish krona	0.5188	0.5272	0.50	0.54	0.5236
Finnish mark	0.6529	0.6695	0.64	0.68	0.6690
Canadian dollar	2.4825	2.5023	2.42	2.54	2.4814
Australian dollar	2.3769	2.4153	2.33	2.45	2.3929
S. African rand	0.7199	0.7318	0.65	0.74	0.7255
Belgian franc (10)	0.9574	0.9729	0.94	0.99	0.9665
Austrian schilling (10)	2.8064	2.8517	2.73	2.90	2.8229
Italian lira (1000)	2.0168	2.0494	1.98	2.08	2.0355
Jordanian dinar	4.9323	5.0118	4.87	5.20	4.9554
Egyptian pound	0.9900	1.0800	0.99	1.08	1.0052
RUU	3.9188	3.9800	—	—	3.9529
Irish punt	5.1527	5.2539	5.08	5.31	5.1910
Spanish peseta (100)	2.3363	2.3740	2.29	2.41	2.3692

\*These rates vary according to bank. \*\*Bank of Israel.

SOURCE: BANK LEUMI

Country	Barak (013)	Bezeq International (074)	Golden Lines (012)
Argentina	1.33	1.33	1.58
Australia	0.81	1.93	1.58
Brazil	1.22	3.61	1.58
Canada	0.73	2.28	0.72
France	0.98	0.98	0.98
Germany	0.98	1.23	0.98
Holland	1.51	0.98	0.89
Japan	0.56	2.28	1.58
UK	1.37	1.30	0.89
South Africa	1.15	2.05	0.89
USA	0.73	0.71	0.72

\* Shekels per minute.

All rates are provided by the companies, include VAT and are valid at any hour.



NEWS

in brief

# Nebraska-Vols in Orange Bowl

# Aussies in 3-wicket win over Kiwis

NEW YORK (AP) — Nebraska made it to the Orange Bowl, and the second-ranked Cornhuskers will play No. 1 Tennessee in the Southeastern Conference title game Saturday night, and the narrow win was enough to keep the Volunteers (11-1) ahead of No. 4 Florida State (10-1).

The Huskers (12-0), meanwhile, turned serious in the Big 12 title game, routing Texas A&M 54-15 to join No. 1 Michigan (11-0) as the only undefeated teams in Division I-A.

But the Huskers, as well as their Orange Bowl opponent, will be rooting for No. 8 Washington State (10-1) to upset the Wolverines in the Rose Bowl on January 1. If that happens, the Orange on January 2 could end up as the national title game.

At Atlanta, Peyton Manning passed for 373 yards and four TDs in a final Heisman Trophy bid, but the Vols still had to overcome six turnovers and at least a half-dozen dropped passes for their first SEC title since 1990.

With Auburn (9-3) leading 29-23, Manning hooked up with Marcus Nash on a 73-yard TD pass for the winning score with 1:14 left in the game.

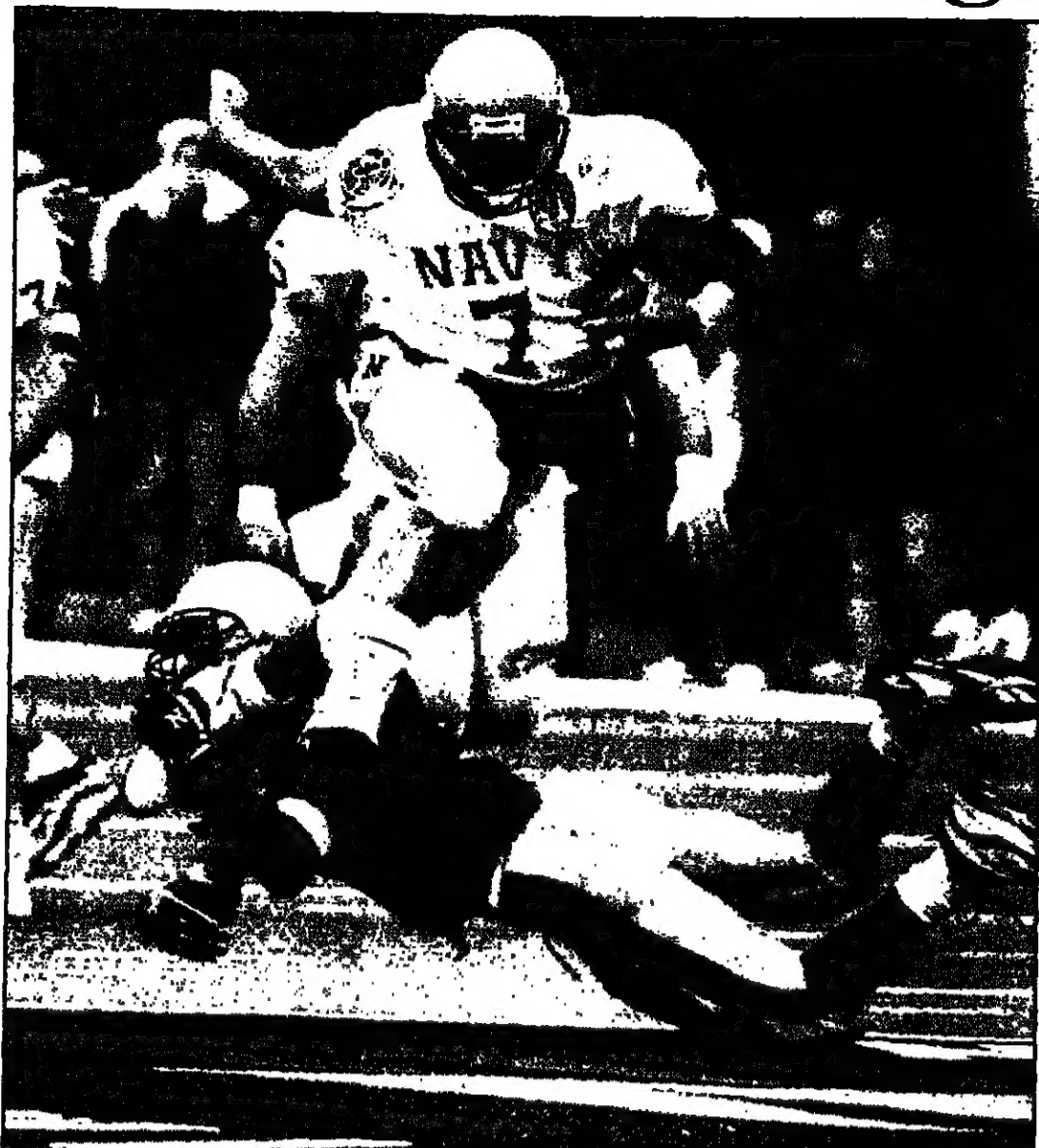
At San Antonio, Ahman Green ran for 179 yards and three TDs, and Scott Frost added two TD runs as the Huskers (12-0) routed the Aggies (9-3), who will likely play No. 5 UCLA (9-2) in the Cotton Bowl.

In the Western Athletic Conference title game Saturday, No. 20 Colorado State beat New Mexico 41-13 and clinched a Holiday Bowl berth, most likely against No. 19 Missouri (7-4). The Lobos (9-3) are set for the Insight.com Bowl, probably against Arizona (6-5).

With Missouri headed for the Holiday Bowl on December 29, No. 24 Oklahoma State is set for a game against No. 18 Purdue (8-3) in the Alamo Bowl on December 30.

Pairings set before Saturday include: Air Force vs. Oregon in the Las Vegas Bowl; Michigan State vs. Washington in the Aloha Bowl; South Carolina State vs. Southern in the Heritage Bowl; Utah State vs. Cincinnati in the Humanitarian Bowl; Pittsburgh vs. Southern Mississippi in the Liberty Bowl.

Also, Marshall (10-2) beat Toledo 34-14 in the Mid-American Conference title game Friday night to earn a berth in the Motor City Bowl; Georgia Tech



ANCHORS AWEIGH — Navy's Chris McCoy (7) leaps over Army's Robert Brown on his way to a 15-yard gain in first-half action. The Midshipmen beat the Cadets 39-7.

- How the college football Top 25 teams fared
1. Michigan (11-0) did not play. Next: vs. No. 18 Washington State, Rose Bowl, Jan. 1.
  2. Nebraska (12-0) beat No. 14 Texas A&M 54-15. Next: vs. TBA, Orange Bowl, Jan. 2.
  3. Tennessee (11-1) beat No. 11 Auburn 30-29. Next: TBA.
  4. Florida State (10-1) did not play. Next: TBA.
  5. UCLA (9-2) did not play. Next: TBA.
  6. Florida (9-2) did not play. Next: TBA.
  7. North Carolina (10-1) did not play. Next: TBA.
  8. Washington State (10-1) did not play. Next: vs. No. 1 Michigan, Rose Bowl, Jan. 1.
  9. Ohio State (10-2) did not play. Next: TBA.
  10. Kansas State (10-1) did not play. Next: TBA.
  11. Auburn (9-3) lost to No. 3 Tennessee 30-29. Next: TBA.
  12. Penn State (9-2) did not play. Next: TBA.
  13. Georgia (9-2) did not play. Next: TBA.
  14. Texas A&M (9-3) lost to No. 2 Nebraska 54-15. Next: TBA.
  15. Syracuse (9-3) did not play. Next: TBA.
  16. LSU (8-3) did not play. Next: TBA.
  17. Arizona State (8-3) did not play. Next: TBA.
  18. Purdue (8-3) did not play. Next: TBA.
  19. Missouri (7-4) did not play. Next: TBA.
  20. Colorado State (10-2) beat New Mexico 41-13. Next: vs. TBA, Holiday Bowl, Dec. 29.
  21. Washington (7-4) did not play. Next: vs. No. 25 Michigan State, Aloha Bowl, Dec. 25.
  22. Southern Mississippi (8-3) did not play. Next: vs. Pittsburgh, Liberty Bowl, Dec. 31.
  23. Air Force (10-2) did not play. Next: vs. Oregon, Las Vegas Bowl, Dec. 20.
  24. Oklahoma State (8-3) did not play. Next: TBA.
  25. Michigan State (7-4) did not play. Next: vs. No. 21 Washington, Aloha Bowl, Dec. 25.

McCoy made certain this group of Midshipmen wouldn't leave without a win over the Cadets, running for 205 yards and three TDs and passing for another as Navy ended a five-game losing streak.

McCoy led Navy (7-4) to scores on six of its first seven possessions with TD runs of 1, 2 and 1 yard. He closed out his stellar career with an 11-yard TD pass to LeRon Butts in the fourth quarter.

Navy, which lost the previous five games against Army by a total of 10 points, won by the most lopsided margin since 1973, when the Mids prevailed 51-0. In 98 meetings, only four times were there larger margins of victory.

Navy held Army to three first downs, outgained the Cadets (4-7) 454-87.

WAC Championship  
No. 20 Colorado State 41  
New Mexico 13  
At Las Vegas, Kevin McDougal ran for 255 yards and scored on runs of 42, 44 and 66 yards as the WAC title game had none of the drama of last year's contest.

With quarterback Moses Moreno bothered by a sore elbow, the Rams piled up 345 yards rushing and scored 24 fourth-quarter points to break open a close game. Colorado State turned an interception and two fumble recoveries into 17 of those points.

Navy 39, Army 7  
At East Rutherford, N.J., Chris

(6-5) is in the Carquest Bowl and most likely will play West Virginia (7-4); and Arizona State (8-3) is in the Sun Bowl, with Iowa (7-4) the likely opponent.

Also, Notre Dame (7-5) appears headed for the Independence Bowl, with other possible matchups being Florida vs. Penn State in the Citrus, Wisconsin vs. Auburn or Georgia in the Outback; and North Carolina vs. Virginia Tech in the Gator.

Big 12 Championship  
No. 2 Nebraska 54  
No. 14 Texas A&M 15  
The visiting Cornhuskers, upset

## Arizona rallies to beat Texas

AUSTIN (AP) — Arizona got off to a slow start again, but thanks to the first-half offense of Jason Terry and the late-game cool of Mike Bibby, the fourth-ranked Wildcats didn't pay for it this time.

Terry scored 20 points, including 12 in a key first half run, as Arizona overcame an early 11-point deficit, and Bibby scored five points in the final 49.8 seconds to help the Wildcats hold off Texas 88-81 Saturday night.

"This is a veteran ball club, and when we get down, we don't panic, ever," Terry said.

The Wildcats, which lost by three points to top-ranked Duke and No. 2 Kansas after falling behind by 20 points early in each game, opened the game 1-of-10 from the field.

Arizona, which has all five starters back from its national championship team, emerged

### College Basketball

from a 20-9 deficit thanks to Terry, who came off the bench and scored 12 points, including two 3-pointers, in a 20-6 run, giving the Wildcats a 29-26 lead with 7:20 left in the first half.

"I'm disappointed there isn't a sixth man award in college basketball because if there was, Jason Terry would get it," Arizona coach Lute Olson said.

The Wildcats appeared to have the game in hand after they scored nine straight points, capped by a 3-pointer by Michael Dickerson with 4:16 left for an 80-67 lead.

But Texas (3-4) tightened its defense and shut down the Wildcats while running off 10 straight points, including 3-pointers by Kris Clack and Chico Vazquez, pulling within 82-78

with 52.6 seconds left.

Bibby, who finished with 19 points, then took over for Arizona, hitting one of two free throws with 49.8 seconds left, hitting a jumper with 31.5 to play and then hitting two free throws with 20.3 left for an 87-81 lead.

Texas could only come up with a 3-pointer by Luke Axtell with 26.7 left before Miles Simon, who along with Terry finished with 20 points, hit a free throw with 4 seconds left for the Wildcats to round out the scoring.

Ball St. 70,  
No. 14 Mississippi 66  
Bonzi Wells scored 34 points as host Ball State won the Cardinal Varsity Classic.

Wells scored 22 points in the second half when Ball State (5-1) overcame an 11-point deficit to record its 19th consecutive victory at University Arena.

- How the college basketball Top 25 teams fared
1. Duke (8-0) beat Virginia Tech 89-69. Next: vs. Villanova, Wednesday.
  2. Kansas (8-0) did not play. Next: vs. No. 22 Maryland, last night.
  3. North Carolina (9-0) beat Virginia Tech 78-57. Next: vs. No. 25 Princeton, Saturday.
  4. Arizona (5-2) beat Texas 88-81. Next: at Baylor, last night.
  5. South Carolina (5-0) beat Chattanooga 67-55. Next: at No. 17 Clemson, Wednesday, Dec. 17.
  6. Purdue (6-2) beat Louisville 67-69. Next: vs. Tennessee-Martin, Friday.
  7. Kentucky (8-1) beat Indiana 75-72. Next: at Cincinnati, Wednesday.
  8. New Mexico (5-1) lost to No. 16 UCLA 90-68. Next: at New Mexico State, tomorrow.
  9. Xavier (5-0) beat WK Kentucky 83-80. Next: at Miami, Ohio, tomorrow.
  10. Iowa (6-0) lost to Weber State 81-66. Next: at Northern Iowa, tomorrow.
  11. Utah (7-0) beat No. 24 Wake Forest 62-63. Next: vs. Utah State, Wednesday.
  12. Stanford (5-0) beat No. 21 Georgia 78-74. Next: at San Diego State, Tuesday, Dec. 16.
  13. Connecticut (8-1) did not play. Next: at Rutgers, last night.
  14. Mississippi (4-1) lost to Ball State 70-58. Next: at Wichita State, Saturday.
  15. UCLA (3-1) beat No. 8 New Mexico 90-68. Next: vs. Cal State-Fullerton, Saturday.
  16. Fresno State (3-1) did not play. Next: at No. 20 Temple, tomorrow.
  17. Clemson (5-2) beat Furman 71-62. Next: vs. Wake Forest, Saturday.
  18. Kansas (8-0) beat Missouri 75-68. Next: at Louisville, tomorrow.
  19. Florida State (6-1) beat Jacksonville 74-44. Next: vs. Florida, Sunday, Dec. 14.
  20. Temple (4-1) beat Wisconsin 68-68. Next: vs. No. 16 Fresno State, tomorrow.
  21. Georgia (5-2) lost to No. 12 Stanford 78-74. Next: at Colorado, tomorrow.
  22. Georgia Tech (5-1) beat Delaware State 84-83. Next: at No. 7 Kentucky, Saturday.
  23. Maryland (8-2) did not play. Next: vs. No. 2 Kansas, Sunday.
  24. Wake Forest (8-1) lost to No. 11 Utah 62-63. Next: at Marshall, Wednesday, Dec. 17.
  25. Princeton (5-0) beat Lafayette 73-48. Next: at Bucknell, tomorrow.



### Making waves

From right to left: Eilan Luski, Vladi Ostrov and Yoni Yonatanov, part of Israel's delegation to the International Swimming Championships for disabled children and youths in Miami, brought home seven gold medals, seven silver and five bronze. Israel was ranked second overall in the competition. The competitors come from ILAN (Israel Center for the Disabled) in Ramat Gan. Coach Reuven Heller stands behind his charges.

## Ra'anana's Pincus shines in local rugby

By JOEL GORDIN

THE first "super league" game of the local rugby season was held at the Sportek yesterday when a central region team beat a northern team 31-7. Each team is made up of the best players of the clubs in the respective region.

The northern team led 7-5 at half-time but could not maintain the momentum. The north's top scorer was Ra'anana fullback Darren Pincus who dotted down two tries and kicked a conversion.

Other tries were scored by Tel Aviv 8th man Mark Goldin, Tel Aviv flank Alex Tkachenko and Netanya lock Avital Eliasov. Ra'anana fly half Darryl Edelstein kicked two conversions.

For the central region, Hafiz wing Herman Spangenberg scored a try and Ra'anana's Dean DuPlessis kicked a conversion.

Other games yesterday: Under 19: Ra'anana 28, Rishon LeZion 5. Under 16: Yotv'e 17, Tzora 0. Hadera 32, Tivon 3. Under 12: Hadera 20, Tivon 20.

## Heinze sparks Bruins past Hurricanes; Islanders' Salo shuts out Coyotes

BOSTON (AP) — Steve Heinze had three goals and an assist to lead the Boston Bruins to a 4-1 victory over the Carolina Hurricanes on Saturday night.

Jason Allison finished with a goal and three assists while Kyle McLaren and Ted Donato each had a pair of assists. Boston improved to 11-0 when leading after the second period.

Bruins goaltender Byron Dafoe (10-10-4) stopped 24 shots to notch Boston's first back-to-back wins in a month. Trevor Kidd (6-7-0) took the loss, which ended a three-game unbeaten streak for Carolina.

Islanders 4, Coyotes 0  
Tommy Salo stopped 22 shots for his second shutout this season to lead the New York Islanders to a home win.

Claude Lapointe, Todd Bertuzzi, Robert Reichel and Zigmund Palffy scored for the Islanders, who have won three of their last four at home. The shutout was the seventh of Salo's career.

The Coyotes, who got 20 saves from backup goalie Jimmy Waite, played their fourth game in six nights, all in the midst of a seven-game road trip. The Coyotes, 1-3-1 on the trip so far, were playing without center Jeremy Roenick, who suffered a concussion in Friday night's 2-2 tie in Carolina.

Penguins 5, Mighty Ducks 2  
Jaromir Jagr scored twice and

Ron Francis had a goal and three assists as Pittsburgh got a strong penalty-killing effort to win at home.

The Penguins rebounded from Thursday's 4-0 home loss to New Jersey that ended their 7-0-1 streak. Anaheim's winless streak extended to four games (0-3-1).

After allowing a goal on Anaheim's first power-play chance, the Penguins killed the next eight shorthanded situations. They came into the game with the NHL's lowest ranked home-ice penalty killing, 74.5 percent.

Devils 4, Lightning 2  
Brian Rolston scored two goals to lead New Jersey over Tampa Bay, the NHL's worst road team.

Bill Guerin and Bobby Holik also scored for the Devils, 11-4-0 in their last 15 games.

Defensemen Roman Hamrlik and Karl Dykhus scored for the Lightning, who lost their 10th straight road game and extended their road winless streak to 15 (0-14-1). The Lightning have not won a road game since October 9, a 4-1 victory in Chicago in their first road contest of the season.

Senators 3, Sabres 0  
Ron Tugnutt stopped 25 shots and earned his first shutout of the season as Ottawa won at home.

Alexandre Daigle and Shawn McEachern scored power-play goals as the Senators snapped Buffalo's four-game unbeaten

streak.

Randy Cunneyworth added an empty-netter with 48 seconds left in the game.

Rangers 3, Canadiens 3  
Adam Graves scored with 5:23 left in the third period to give struggling New York a tie with host Montreal, extending the Rangers' winless streak to eight games.

It was the 11th tie of the season for the Rangers, who played Philadelphia to a 4-4 draw Friday night. New York is 0-4-4 in its last eight games.

Maple Leafs 7, Kings 2  
Mats Sundin and Sergei Berezin each scored two goals as Toronto recorded its largest margin of victory this season with a home win.

The Maple Leafs, scored at least two goals in each period.

Blues 4, Flames 3 (OT)  
Geoff Courtnall scored with 22 seconds left in overtime to lift St. Louis to a home win.

Courtnall scored from a pileup in front of the net after taking a pass from Brett Hull.

The game went into overtime after Calgary's German Titov scored with less than nine minutes remaining to tie the score.

Avalanche 6, Canucks 4  
Eric Lacroix scored two goals and Peter Forsberg and Joe Sakic had a pair of assists each as Colorado remained unbeaten in six games with a home victory.

Carolina Hurricanes

Period	1	2	3	T
Goals	0	0	0	0
Shots	10	12	15	37
Saves	10	12	15	37

Atlanta Thrashers

Period	1	2	3	T
Goals	0	0	0	0
Shots	10	12	15	37
Saves	10	12	15	37

Phoenix Coyotes

Period	1	2	3	T
Goals	0	0	0	0
Shots	10	12	15	37
Saves	10	12	15	37

St. Louis Blues

Period	1	2	3	T
Goals	0	0	0	0
Shots	10	12	15	37
Saves	10	12	15	37

San Jose Sharks

Period	1	2	3	T
Goals	0	0	0	0
Shots	10	12	15	37
Saves	10	12	15	37

Los Angeles Kings

Period	1	2	3	T
Goals	0	0	0	0
Shots	10	12	15	37
Saves	10	12	15	37

San Jose Sharks

Period	1	2	3	T
Goals	0	0	0	0
Shots	10	12	15	37
Saves	10	12	15	37

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
New Jersey	19	9	0	38	82	51
Philadelphia	15	9	6	36	84	78
Washington	15	10	4	34	86	75
N.Y. Islanders	12	13	4	28	79	79
N.Y. Rangers	8	12	11	27	60	86
Florida	8	15	5	21	65	85
Tampa Bay	5	19	4	14	54	93
Northeast Division	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Pittsburgh	16	10	5	37	88	77
Montreal	16	10	4	36	90	71
Boston	13	12	5	31	74	79
Ottawa	13	13	4	30	78	72
Carolina	12	14	5	29	83	86
Buffalo	9	13	6	24	72	77
Central Division	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Dallas	20	7	4	44	103	67
Detroit	18	7	5	41	98	69
St. Louis	18	9	3	39	89	68
Phoenix	13	13	3	29	79	81
Chicago	10	14	4	24	60	71
Toronto	9	14	4	22	60	76
Pacific Division	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Colorado	16	8	4	40	92	75
Los Angeles	12	12	5	29	89	83
Anheim	11	14	6	28	70	88
Edmonton	9	15	6	24	70	91
San Jose	10	18	2	22	74	93
Vancouver	9	16	4	22	83	99
Calgary	6	18	7	19	77	99

Saturday's results:

Boston 4, Carolina 1  
Pittsburgh 3, Atlanta 2  
N.Y. Islanders 4, Philadelphia 3  
Ottawa 3, Buffalo 0  
N.Y. Rangers 3, Montreal 3  
New Jersey 4, Tampa Bay 2  
Toronto 1, Los Angeles 2  
St. Louis 4, Calgary 0  
Colorado 6, Vancouver 4



# Rockets in south-of-the-border win

before the All-Star break, played

WESTERN CONFERENCE				
Midwest Division				
	W	L	Pct.	GB
Houston	11	5	.688	—
Utah	11	7	.611	1
San Antonio	10	8	.556	2½
Phoenix	8	10	.444	4
Vancouver	7	13	.350	4
Dallas	5	13	.278	7
Denver	1	15	.063	10
Pacific Division				
L.A. Lakers	15	2	.883	—
Seattle	15	4	.789	1
Phoenix	11	4	.733	3
Portland	11	6	.647	4
Sacramento	5	14	.263	11
L.A. Clippers	3	15	.167	12½
Golden State	2	14	.125	12½

**Saturday's results:**  
New York 90, Charlotte 79  
Washington 114, Minnesota 103  
Houston 108, Dallas 106  
Orlando 83, L.A. Clippers 79







